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PRINCETON, N. J.

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1917

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MEXICAN REGULATIONS FOR COLLECTING REVENUE.

[Telegram from American Ambassador, Mexico City, Sept. 28.]

Treasury Department circular just issued prohibits all Federal revenue collectors from receiving American paper or silver money or foreign bills of exchange after September 30, assigning as the reason the fact that American paper in Mexico can not be exchanged because of order of American Government prohibiting exportation of gold. Collectors may receive American gold at two for one. Presidential decree just issued prohibits exportation of gold, silver, Mexican coins, and gold bars, and requires exporters of concentrates containing specified percentage gold or silver to give bond to reimport equivalent in gold bars or gold coins.

UNITED STATES BUYS RECORD CANARY ISLAND ONION-SEED CROP.

[Consul George K. Stiles, Tenerife, Aug. 31.]

The biggest crop of Canary Island onion seed ever grown finished its movement toward United States ports to-day, when large final shipments brought the 1917 value of this export to America up to \$137,289 (\$131,882 for the United States and \$5,407 for Porto Rico), as compared with \$84,387 for 1916 and only \$40,828 in 1915. While good results had been expected, even the most optimistic planters were surprised by the great quantities of high-grade seed produced and the large buying orders from the United States—which country has bought nearly all available seed, only very small quantities remaining on the market.

These conditions were foreseen in a report sent by the Tenerife consulate as far back as August 31, 1916, when it was forecast that "the showing made by American purchases of onion seed (1916 crop) has had a most stimulating effect on the industry in these

islands, and heavy planting may be expected for the 1917 crop." These expectations were more than fulfilled in the actual results of the crop movement just ended. The majority of the growers are now figuring on even larger plantings, with the intention of surpassing in 1918 the record results obtained in the present year.

A number of American seedsmen and onion growers having recently inquired as to the development of the Canary Island onion-seed business with American firms, the following statement of the value of the declared exports of seed from these islands to the United States is appended for their information: In 1909 the declared value totaled \$57,170; in 1910, \$36,509; in 1911, \$30,753; in 1912, \$74,686; in 1913, \$84,345; in 1914, \$43,293; in 1915, \$40,828; in 1916, \$84,387; and in 1917, \$137,289.

GUAYAQUIL MARKET REPORT FOR AUGUST.

[Consul General Frederic W. Goding, Guayaquil, Ecuador, Sept. 8.]

A decline of \$0.40 per quintal from July quotations on cacao marked the first few days of August, the prices being \$8, \$7.60, and \$7.20, respectively, for Arriba, Balao, and Machala. About the end of the month advices received from New York caused some animation in the local market and the \$0.40 per quintal was restored.

During August 4,422,352 pounds of cacao were exported to the following countries: Peru, 1,440 pounds; Spain, 353,776 pounds; and the United States, 4,067,136 pounds.

Coffee, Hides, Rubber, and Ivory Nuts.

Coffee was firm, quotations being \$0.20 for first grade and \$9 for second grade; 599,113 pounds were exported to Chile.

The hide market was weak, with declining prices. Quotations were \$16.80 for serranos, \$16 for criollos, and \$8 for picados. The 274,180 pounds shipped went to New York.

Rubber was weak, with prices on the decline. Quotations were \$26 for maromas and \$22 for hojas. The United States took all the month's exports—10,858 pounds.

The ivory-nut market was depressed, quotations being \$1.20 for the shelled nuts. There were 48,259 pounds exported to the United States.

Imports and Exchange.

Guayaquil's imports for August amounted to 26,147 packages, weighing 4,188 tons, and came from the following countries: Chile, 1,401 packages; Cuba, 4; France, 200; Italy, 53; Peru, 2,910; Sweden, 50; United Kingdom, 2,183; United States, 19,340; other, 6 packages.

The bank exchange rate varied from 250 to 272.

New Bank Branches in Venezuelan City.

The lack of banking facilities in Ciudad Bolivar, the commercial center of the Orinoco Valley, has been supplied by the establishment there of a local agency of the Bank of Venezuela and of a branch of the Royal Bank of Canada, according to an announcement in the British Board of Trade Journal of August 30. A private banking house is also doing business in Ciudad Bolivar, making the present banking connections quite adequate.

ACTIVITIES OF RUSSIAN LEATHER COMMITTEE.

[Orsen N. Nielsen, chief clerk, consulate general, Moscow, Aug. 24.]

In addition to planning a complete reorganization of its membership, the Russian leather committee at its last meeting decided to take an inventory of all undressed and dressed skins in European Russia to cover all stocks up to August 1 of this year. To insure greater accuracy in the count, the Ministry of Trade and Industry will be petitioned to order the confiscation of all skins that are not reported to the committee at the time of the inventory.

The price of Russian dried, unsalted, cut, and headless calfskins, weighing 198 to 216 pounds per hundred, was fixed at 40 rubles per pood (36.1128 pounds). It was decided to appoint a committee to fix the prices of calfskins upon the basis of weight and quality. This same committee will also prepare a report on the advisability of requisitioning the skins. Should requisitioning be decided upon, factories whose stock on hand is less than a six months' supply are to be exempt.

Fixed prices on camel skins ranged from 12 to 8 rubles per pood, dependent upon the weight of the skins while fresh.

A price of 19 rubles per pair was fixed on military shoes (infantry) and 19.50 rubles per pair for cavalry shoes. Prices for infantry top boots were fixed at 21.15 rubles per pair, and for cavalry boots at 20.65 rubles. [At the time this report was written the exchange value of the ruble was about 21 cents.]

The Ministry of War will be asked by the committee to designate a certain percentage of heavy hides for the manufacture of sole leather. The imports of sole leather from all sources will be organized by a special board.

In Akmolinsk, Siberia, the committee of supplies has a good stock of hides. It has asked permission to reopen one of the factories in the vicinity of Kotchetava for tanning operations.

FISHERY PRODUCTS IN SOUTH ATLANTIC AND GULF STATES.

An investigation has been undertaken by the United States Bureau of Fisheries with the object of increasing if possible in the South Atlantic and Gulf States the production and consumption of fishery products and developing a more general utilization of fish waste for oil, fertilizer, and meal. In the more important fishery centers to be visited assistance will be given in overcoming difficulties experienced by those engaged in the preservation of fish by pickling and canning, and suggestions will be made as to apparatus needed for canning fish, converting fish waste into oil and fertilizer, etc. Later the bureau plans to detail one or more of its assistants to demonstrate methods of smoking fish in order to encourage the development of this industry in these States, as comparatively few persons are fully acquainted with the excellent qualities of the smoked product or with the number of species suitable for treatment in this manner.

SAVE YOUR MONEY

To Buy a Bond of the Second Liberty Loan of 1917.

TREASURY ANNOUNCES SECOND LIBERTY LOAN.

The Secretary of the Treasury invites subscriptions, at par and accrued interest, from the people of the United States, for \$3,000,000,000 of United States of America 10-25 year four per cent convertible gold bonds, of an issue authorized by act of Congress approved September 24, 1917; the right being reserved to allot additional bonds up to one-half the amount of any oversubscription.

DESCRIPTION OF BONDS.**Denominations.**

Bearer bonds with interest coupons attached will be issued in denominations of \$50, \$100, \$500, \$1,000, \$5,000, and \$10,000. Bonds registered as to principal and interest will be issued in denominations of \$50, \$100, \$500, \$1,000, \$5,000, \$10,000, \$50,000, and \$100,000. Provision will be made for the interchange of bonds of different denominations and of coupon and registered bonds, and for the transfer of registered bonds, without charge by the United States, and under rules and regulations prescribed by the Secretary of the Treasury.

Rate of Interest, Date of Bonds, Maturity, and Redemption.

The bonds will be dated November 15, 1917, and will bear interest at the rate of 4 per cent per annum from that date, payable semi-annually on May 15 and November 15. The bonds will mature November 15, 1942, but the issue may be redeemed at the option of the United States on or after November 15, 1927, in whole or in part, at par and accrued interest, on any interest day, on six months' notice given in such manner as the Secretary of the Treasury shall prescribe. In case of partial redemption the bonds to be redeemed will be determined by such method as may be prescribed by the Secretary of the Treasury. The principal and interest of the bonds will be payable in United States gold coin of the present standard of value.

Tax Exemption.

The bonds shall be exempt, both as to principal and interest, from all taxation now or hereafter imposed by the United States, any State, or any of the possessions of the United States, or by any local taxing authority, except (a) estate or inheritance taxes, and (b) graduated additional income taxes, commonly known as surtaxes, and excess-profits and war-profits taxes, now or hereafter imposed by the United States, upon the income or profits of individuals, partnerships, associations, or corporations. The interest on an amount of bonds and certificates authorized by said act, the principal of which does not exceed in the aggregate \$5,000 owned by any individual, partnership, association, or corporation, shall be exempt from the taxes provided for in clause (b) above.

Conversion Privilege.

If a subsequent series of bonds (not including United States certificates of indebtedness, war-savings certificates, and other obligations maturing not more than five years from the issue of such obligations, respectively) bearing interest at a higher rate than 4 per cent per annum shall, under the authority of said act approved September

24, 1917, or any other act, be issued by the United States before the termination of the war between the United States and the Imperial German Government (the date of such termination to be fixed by proclamation of the President of the United States), then the holders of bonds of the present series shall have the privilege, at the option of the several holders, of converting their bonds, at par, into bonds bearing such higher rate of interest, at the issue price of bonds of such subsequent series, not less than par, with an adjustment of accrued interest. Such conversion privilege must be exercised, if at all, at any time within the period, after the public offering of bonds of such subsequent series, beginning at the date of issuing of bonds of such subsequent issue, as such date shall be fixed in such public offering, and terminating six months after such date of issue, and under such rules and regulations as the Secretary of the Treasury shall have prescribed. The bonds to be issued upon such conversion of bonds of the present series shall be substantially the same in form and terms as shall be prescribed by or pursuant to law with respect to the bonds of such subsequent series, not only as to interest rate but also as to convertibility (if future bonds be issued at a still higher rate of interest) or nonconvertibility, and as to exemption from taxation, if any, and in all other respects, except that the bonds issued upon such conversion shall have the same dates of maturity, of principal, and of interest, and be subject to the same terms of redemption before maturity, as the bonds converted; and such bonds shall be issued from time to time if and when and to the extent that the privilege of conversion so conferred shall arise and shall be exercised. If the privilege of conversion so conferred shall once arise, and shall not be exercised with respect to any bonds of the present series within the period above prescribed, then such privilege shall terminate as to such bonds and shall not arise again though again thereafter bonds be issued bearing interest at a higher rate or rates than 4 per cent per annum.

APPLICATIONS.

Official Agencies.

The agencies designated by the Secretary of the Treasury to receive applications for the bonds now offered are the Treasury Department in Washington, D. C., and the Federal Reserve Banks in Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Cleveland, Richmond, Atlanta (with branch at New Orleans), Chicago, St. Louis (with branch at Louisville), Minneapolis, Kansas City (with branch at Omaha), Dallas, and San Francisco (with branches at Seattle and Spokane). Said banks have been designated also as fiscal agents of the United States to collate applications, to give notices of the allotments which the Secretary of the Treasury will eventually make to subscribers, to receive payments, and to make delivery of the bonds allotted. Subscribers may send their applications direct to any of these official agencies.

Subscribers' Agencies.

Large numbers of National banks, State banks, and trust companies, investment bankers, express companies, newspapers, department stores, and other corporations, firms, and organizations have patriotically offered to receive and transmit applications for the second liberty loan without expense to the applicants. The Secretary

of the Treasury appreciates the value of these offers, and will have application blanks widely distributed, through the Federal Reserve Banks, to these institutions throughout the country, as well as to the post offices. No commissions will be paid upon subscriptions, and those who receive and transmit applications are therefore rendering the service as a patriotic duty.

Form of Application.

Applications must be in the form prescribed by the Secretary of the Treasury and be accompanied by payment of 2 per cent of the amount of bonds applied for. Applications must be for bonds to an amount of \$50 or some multiple thereof. Any subscriber making application for an amount of bonds not in excess of \$1,000 may, at the option of such subscriber, accompany such application by payment in full, at face value without interest, for the bond or bonds applied for, in which case a bond or bonds bearing interest from November 15, 1917, will be delivered to the subscriber as soon as possible after the application, accompanied by such payment in full, is received. No payment other than the 2 per cent required should accompany any application for bonds to an amount in excess of \$1,000.

Time of Closing Application Books.

Applications accompanied by payment as aforesaid must reach the Treasury Department or a Federal Reserve Bank or branch thereof, or some incorporated bank or trust company within the United States (not including outlying territories and possessions), not later than the close of business on October 27, 1917, the right being reserved by the Secretary of the Treasury to close the subscription on any earlier date. Applications received by any incorporated bank or trust company on or before October 27, 1917, must, by such bank or trust company, be transmitted to, or covered by its own subscription to, the Federal Reserve bank of the district in which it is located, reaching such Federal Reserve Bank not later than the close of business on November 1, 1917, accompanied by payment as aforesaid.

ALLOTMENT.

Applications for \$1,000 or less bonds from any one subscriber will be allotted in full. All applications for bonds in excess of \$1,000 will be received subject to allotment; and the Secretary of the Treasury reserves the right to reject any such applications, to make allotment of part of the amount of bonds applied for, to make allotment in full upon applications for smaller amounts, and to make reduced allotments upon or to reject applications for larger amounts, and to make classified allotments and allotments upon a graduated scale, pursuant to the act of Congress authorizing the bonds, should any such action be deemed by him to be in the public interest; and his action in these respects will be final. In case of applications rejected the accompanying payment of 2 per cent will be returned without interest as soon as practicable. In case of partial allotments the excess of the 2 per cent payment (without credit for interest) will be applied on the installment due November 15, 1917. The basis of allotment will be announced, and allotments will be made, on or about November 5. Allotment notices will be mailed shortly thereafter.

PAYMENTS.

Payments for bonds allotted, in addition to the 2 per cent on application, will be required as follows: 18 per cent on November 15, 1917; 40 per cent on December 15, 1917; 40 per cent on January 15, 1918, with accrued interest on both deferred installments. Receipt of installment payments made to official agencies prior to payment in full will be acknowledged by the several Federal Reserve Banks. Payments must be made when and as required under penalty of forfeiture of any and all installments previously paid, and of all right or interest in the bonds allotted. Except in the case of subscriptions for amounts not in excess of \$1,000, as hereinbefore provided, no payments other than the 2 per cent required with the application will be received until after allotment is made. Payment for bonds allotted in any amount may be completed after allotment without previous notice, but only on November 15, 1917, and (the previous installments having been duly paid) on December 15, 1917, or January 15, 1918, with accrued interest.

Payment by United States Treasury Certificates of Indebtedness.

Payments may be made on November 15 by United States Treasury certificates of indebtedness of any maturity, and on December 15 by certificates maturing on that date, and on January 15, 1918, by certificates maturing on that date if any such are outstanding. These payments may be either for the full amount of the allotment, or for the first installment, or for the installment then due. Such certificates will be received at their face value, and the accrued interest thereon will be remitted by check to the subscriber. Unmatured certificates thus presented on November 15, 1917, in payment for bonds must not be of a larger face value than the amount then to be paid on the subscription; and subscribers should obtain certificates in appropriate denominations in advance.

How to Make Payments.

It is strongly recommended that subscribers avail themselves of the assistance of their own banks and trust companies, in which case they will, of course, make payment through such institutions. In cases where they do not do so, subscribers should make payment, either in cash to the Treasury Department in Washington or to one of the Federal Reserve Banks, or by bank draft, certified check, post-office money order, or express company money order, made payable to the order of the Secretary of the Treasury if the application is filed with the Treasury Department in Washington (thus: "The Secretary of the Treasury, Second Liberty Loan Account"), or, if the application is filed elsewhere, made payable to the order of the Federal Reserve Bank of the district in which the application is filed (thus: "Federal Reserve Bank of -----, Second Liberty Loan Account").

DELIVERY.

Bonds dated November 15, 1917, and bearing interest from that date, will be delivered by the several Federal Reserve Banks as fiscal agents of the United States as far as practicable in accordance with written instructions given by the subscribers, and, within the United States, its Territories and insular possessions, will be delivered at

the expense of the United States. Subscribers for an amount not in excess of \$1,000 who make payment in full at the time of filing their applications will receive bonds bearing interest from November 15, 1917, as soon as possible after their subscriptions are received. Such subscribers will receive no interest from date of payment to November 15. All other subscribers will receive bonds promptly after due completion of payment.

INTEREST.

The bonds being dated November 15, 1917, no accrued interest will be due on subscriptions for bonds paid for in full on or before November 15, 1917. No rebate of interest will be allowed, either on account of full payment in advance of November 15, or on account of the 2 per cent required to be paid with the application. Upon completion of payment for the bonds on December 15 or January 15 the subscriber will be required to pay accrued interest from November 15 on the deferred installments at the rate of 4 per cent per annum.

FURTHER DETAILS.

The bonds will be receivable as security for deposits of public money, but will not bear the circulation privilege.

Coupon bonds will have four interest coupons attached, covering interest payments up to and including November 15, 1919. On or after that date holders of these bonds should surrender the same and obtain a new bond or bonds having coupons attached thereto covering semiannual payments from May 15, 1920, to November 15, 1942. Bonds with the limited number of interest coupons attached will be thus delivered in order to save the annoyance of the delivery of interim receipts, and to allow sufficient time for the engraving and printing of bonds with the full number of coupons attached, without inconvenience to the subscriber.

Further details may be announced by the Secretary of the Treasury from time to time, information as to which as well as forms for application may be obtained from the Treasury Department or through any Federal Reserve Bank.

W. G. McAdoo,
Secretary of the Treasury.

MEXICO RETIRES CERTAIN ISSUES OF PAPER MONEY.

[American Minister Henry P. Fletcher, Mexico City, Sept. 6.]

By a presidential decree of September 4 all business transactions with paper money issued by the Constitutionalist Government are prohibited, under penalty of imprisonment for one year, fine of 100 to 1,000 pesos, and confiscation of the paper money involved. This action is designed to prevent illegal gain by individuals or business houses through taking advantage of the ignorance of a large portion of the public which continues to believe that this money will again have some value.

The decree specifies as coming within the prohibition the paper money of the Vera Cruz issue and the Constitutionalist Army, as well as 20 other issues of paper money, bonds, and I. O. U.'s, which are described in detail.

CHANGE IN PROGRAM OF FOREIGN-TRADE INVESTIGATION.

The Secretary of Commerce authorizes the following:

A slight but unimportant change in the program framed by the Department of Commerce for some of its foreign-trade investigators in Asiatic Russia and parts of Europe is about to be put in operation as the consequence of abnormal conditions prevailing in those regions.

It is now impossible to secure commercial information at many points, and what is obtainable at this time carries little value as a permanent contribution to our knowledge of foreign conditions. Therefore in response to recommendations made by the several investigators indicated, four of them will be sent to more prolific fields of enterprise for American industry, and two of them recalled to headquarters at Washington pending the formulation of a definite plan for commercial investigation in other countries.

The foreign studies of the department are by this change only transferred from countries where adequate results can not now be forthcoming to fields where there is a promise of more profitable trade for our exporters.

Happily, too, the plan responds to urgent invitations from many parts of Europe and South America, where considerable trade awaits us if our men are on the ground to collect the data necessary and to cultivate commercial relations.

The procedure above described has been submitted to several of the most experienced exporters of this country and has received their approbation.

These facts will serve to resolve any doubts that may be felt by exporting individuals or organizations that the department expects to relinquish in any degree its active prosecution of the export trade.

FINANCING PORT WORKS IN URUGUAY.

[American Minister Robert E. Jeffrey, Montevideo.]

The finance committee of the Montevideo Port Works has presented to the Uruguayan Ministry of Public Works a report for the year 1916, including a record of the surtax receipts at that port for the past 16 years. The entire receipts from the 1 per cent surtax on exports and 3 per cent on imports were used for the port works from 1900 to 1915, but a law was passed in 1915 allowing only 50 per cent of these receipts for the port works. The receipts in 1900 amounted to 921,367 pesos (peso=\$1.034), and they increased each year until 1912, when the highest point was reached with 1,789,199 pesos. When the receipts were cut in half for the port works the finance committee received but 794,425 pesos in the first year, 1915, and \$579,551 pesos in 1916. This amount was not sufficient to cover expenses last year, and the committee was obliged to ask for an extension of time on certain obligations.

The sum expended for work on the superstructure of the port was 206,853 pesos, for dredging 403,808 pesos, and for indemnities 29,629 pesos, making a total expense of 640,290 pesos in 1916. The finance committee recommends that an additional appropriation be made for superstructure and that an emergency fund be created to provide for maintenance. At present there is no provision for maintenance, and equipment is much needed to prevent any undermining of the port works. Dredging is continued in accordance with a special provision made in 1915.

JAPAN INCREASING IRON AND STEEL OUTPUT.

[Consul General George H. Seidmore, Yokohama, Aug. 26.]

Projects for two new steel factories in the vicinity of Yokohama are reported by the Japan Advertiser. The Asano Steel Works are projected by Mr. Soichiro Asano, and the other plant is that of the Japan Steel Pipe Factory. Mr. Asano is the president of the Toyo Kisen Kaisha and the founder of the Asano Shipbuilding Co. His shipyards, established only 10 months ago, are now operating at full capacity. The Mitsubishi Engine and Iron Works, Nagasaki, and the Kawasaki Dockyard Co., Kobe, also have found it imperative to be able to produce their own steel. Mr. Ryozo Asano, managing director of the Toyo Kisen Kaisha and son of Mr. Soichiro Asano, has sailed for the United States, where he will investigate the steel industry and make purchases of the latest steel-producing equipment.

Must Have Independent Steel Supply.

Regarding the new Asano Steel Works, Mr. Kato, managing director and chief engineer of the Asano Shipbuilding Co., is quoted by the Advertiser as stating that the independence of the supply of steel has much to do with the independence of the shipbuilding industry of Japan. When Mr. Asano first proposed to create the shipbuilding company, he also held the intention of establishing a steel factory. Consequently it is declared that the present project is not a new idea. There will be \$2,492,500 invested by Mr. Asano in his new project.

The Japan Steel Pipe Factory, which will soon be established near Yokohama, has purchased mining rights in Nara and Fukushima prefectures with the object of getting ores. Dr. Imaizumi, chief engineer of this company, recently visited Switzerland, where he acquired a patent for producing sponge iron, a material for making steel. Preparations are now being made to produce steel on a large scale, and when all these plans are completed 60,000 tons will be turned out annually by this factory.

The Japan Steel Co. at Muroran, in the Hokkaido, the largest steel company in Japan, is to double its capital of \$7,477,500, according to the Advertiser. This step already has been approved by the two British companies that are interested in this corporation—Armstrong and Vickers. Mr. Kabayama, managing director of the company, has been visiting London to negotiate with the British companies on this proposed stock increase. The additional shares will be taken up equally by these two companies and the Hokkaido Colliery Co. The three are the sole stockholders of the Japan Steel Co.

The increase of capital has been proposed in order to carry out an extension of the company's business, which has grown prosperous during the war.

Projects for Iron Production.

The Japan Chronicle states that several projects have been launched in this country for establishing iron works. The Tokai Kogyo Kaisha, recently established, has bought an extensive tract of land in a suburb of Wakamatsu, where workshops are being erected. These will be completed soon, and when the plant and equipment are

ready the company will be able to turn out 30,000 tons of shipbuilding materials, iron plate, and rails a year.

Another iron-manufacturing company in course of flotation is the Fuji Seiko Kaisha, with a capital of \$2,991,000. The Nippon Kotetsu Kaisha also recently invited subscriptions from the public to its capital of \$498,500. In a further discussion of the subject, the Chronicle says:

There is, besides, the gigantic project of the Kuhara family of Osaka, with a capital of \$4,985,000. Mr. Yasukawa, a well-known mine owner of Kyushu, has acquired an iron mine in China, and is arranging to establish a company with a capital of \$4,985,000 for the purpose of exploiting it. The Toyo Seitetsu Kaisha has lately increased its capital to \$14,955,000, and has bought an extensive site in Kyushu for new workshops, the building of which will be commenced in April next. When these new factories have been completed, the company will be able to produce 170,000 tons of pig iron a year. Of this quantity 88,000 tons will be supplied as pig iron, and out of the remaining 82,000 tons it is planned to produce 75,000 tons of steel. It will be a year or two, however, before the new workshops of the company, are in full working order.

Extensions at Government Foundry.

In addition, the South Manchuria Railway Co. and the Okura Co. have launched projects for large undertakings in China. The Mitsubishi and the Kawasaki Dockyard Companies are credited with similar projects. The Government Iron Foundry at Wakamatsu is carrying out very large extensions of its operations, the plan spreading over five years up to 1921. It is also said that Messrs. Suzuki & Co. and the Mitsui Bussan Kaisha are contemplating undertaking the iron industry in Kyushu. Moreover, some half dozen smaller iron and steel works, such as the Osaka Seitetsusho and the Ito Kenkyusho, have recently come into being in the neighborhood of Osaka and Kobe.

The present total output of iron from Japanese foundries falls short of 1,000,000 tons, but it is expected that in two years it will increase to about 2,000,000 tons. It is then thought that the domestic demand for steel will be adequately met by the home product. At present, however, the steel available for general shipbuilding purposes amounts to not more than 50,000 tons. On account of the present condition of the industry it is impossible for Japan to meet her shipbuilding requirements by the home output, and she must rely upon imports to a very great extent.

1918 TIDE TABLES FOR THE MARITIME WORLD.

General tide tables for the year 1918 have been published as Serial No. 62 by the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey. The figures given cover the entire maritime world, and embrace full predictions for all tides at 81 ports, and tidal differences for several thousand stations. The full predictions are given for four additional ports—Savannah, Ga.; Anchorage, Cook Inlet, Alaska; Cubu, Philippine Islands, and Port Hedland, Australia. The standard port of Amoy, China, has been discontinued. The section relating to the Philippine Islands has been revised and enlarged. The moonrise and moonset tables have been increased by the addition of Los Angeles, Cal., and Manila, P. I. The book contains 495 pages. Copies may be obtained at 50 cents each from the agencies of the Coast and Geodetic Survey.

SAVE YOUR MONEY

To Buy a Bond of the Second Liberty Loan of 1917.

TRACTORS IN THE FARMING SECTIONS OF WALES.

[Consul M. K. Moorhead, Swansea.]

The Swansea district is largely industrial, and its chief exports are anthracite coal, tin, terne, and black plates, and galvanized sheets. The dominant industries are coal mining, the manufacture of tin plates, and the smelting of ores, especially copper and zinc. While agriculture occupies a very subordinate position, considerable land situated at a distance from the industrial area surrounding Swansea is under cultivation.

Areas Cultivated for Various Crops.

The total area (excluding water) of the counties of Brecon, Cardigan, Carmarthen, Glamorgan, and Pembroke, which correspond roughly to the Swansea consular district, a portion only of Glamorgan County lying within the Cardiff district, is 2,401,119 acres, of which 1,212,619 acres were under grasses in 1916 and 250,388 acres under crops. Of the area under grass, 389,849 acres were for hay and 822,770 acres not for hay. The total area under crops and hay was therefore 640,237 acres, or approximately 27 per cent of the entire area (excluding water) of the district. Of this, 17 per cent consisted of land under hay and 10 per cent of land under crops, principally oats, barley, wheat, turnips, and potatoes.

The acreage under each of the five principal crops in each county of the Swansea consular district, as returned on June 5, 1916, by the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries, London, is given in the following table:

Counties.	Oats.	Barley.	Wheat.	Turnips, Swedes.	Potatoes.
	<i>Acres.</i>	<i>Acres.</i>	<i>Acres.</i>	<i>Acres.</i>	<i>Acres.</i>
Brecon.....	11,663	3,301	3,081	4,189	904
Cardigan.....	30,715	15,679	6,866	4,840	5,321
Carmarthen.....	29,437	13,720	8,752	4,168	3,725
Glamorgan.....	11,107	4,862	4,851	5,207	2,335
Pembroke.....	28,727	17,942	3,352	4,980	2,401
Total.....	111,649	55,504	26,902	23,393	14,686

Government Machines at Low Rental.

Under the Government plowing scheme many tractors have been imported and let out to the farmers at the very low rate of \$4.25 per acre plowed. During June, 29 of these Government tractors were in use in Wales, and there were in addition 9 privately-owned machines.

It appears to be the general opinion that tractors for plowing, and to a smaller extent for harvesting, will be used in greatly increased numbers. In view of the low rental charge made by the Government, it is extremely improbable that many machines will be purchased outright by the farmers of this district.

The best plan for American manufacturers who desire to obtain a share of this trade would be to endeavor to sell direct to the British Government. The majority of the tractors in use in Wales for farming purposes are of 25 horsepower. They should be narrow enough to pass through a gate 6 feet wide. Some American tractors which have been brought into this district require a gate clearly 8 feet wide, with the result that gates and posts on the farms have had to be removed.

There is practically no market in the Swansea district for tractors driven by gasoline and kerosene for hauling and road work. It has been found that on account of the great cost and scarcity of mineral oil, the steam-driven tractor can be operated much more cheaply, and as the Swansea district is the chief center of the South Wales coal field, the disposition of all users is to favor such tractors as may be run at a minimum of cost with fuel, which is easily obtainable, and of which there is an unfailing supply.

Use of Kerosene for Motor Busses.

Kerosene has been resorted to as a substitute for gasoline in some cases in connection with various motor busses traveling within the Swansea district, but the results have been far from satisfactory. Too much heat has been generated, and too much carbon produced by the kerosene. As a result of the heat, bearings have become loose and out of alignment, while the effect of the carbon on the gearing and cylinder has been such as to necessitate their constant cleaning and renewal.

For heavy hauling and road work there is undoubtedly a large demand for steam-driven lorries, but at present there seems to be no new spirit-driven tractors in use for this work, although heavy spirit-driven motor trucks are employed by breweries, wholesale provision dealers, furniture dealers, and others for hauling goods within the city of Swansea. These trucks have been in use for several years, and the tendency appears to be to replace these old spirit trucks, when worn out, with steam-driven wagons.

All new road construction has been suspended during the war, and only very necessary repairs are undertaken. The only road-building machinery in use is the ordinary steam roller.

[Lists of dealers in automobiles and agricultural implements in Swansea may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 90258.]

AUGUST FOREIGN TRADE SHOWS BIG IMPROVEMENT.

Exports in August were valued at \$490,009,828, a gain of \$115,500,000 over July. The total exports for the 12 months ended with August were valued at \$6,200,219,805. For the preceding 12 months the total was \$4,759,285,590.

Imports for August were valued at \$270,509,379, a gain of \$45,000,000 as compared with July. For the 12 months ended with August, American purchases abroad totaled \$2,773,751,498, an important increase over the \$2,294,873,989 of the preceding 12 months.

Merchandise entered free of duty in August amounted to 72.1 per cent of the total. The imports of gold in August were \$18,692,170 and the exports \$46,049,306.

OFFICES OF THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE.

DISTRICT OFFICES.

NEW YORK: 724 Customhouse.
BOSTON: 1801 Customhouse.
CHICAGO: 404 Federal Building.
ST. LOUIS: 402 Third National Bank Building.
NEW ORLEANS: 1070 Riberaia Bank Building.
SAN FRANCISCO: 807 Customhouse.
SEATTLE: 848 Henry Building.

COOPERATIVE OFFICES.

CLEVELAND: Chamber of Commerce.
CINCINNATI: Chamber of Commerce.
CINCINNATI: General Freight Agent, Southern Railway, 26 Ingalls Building.
LOS ANGELES: Chamber of Commerce.
PHILADELPHIA: Chamber of Commerce.
CHATTANOOGA: South American Agent, Southern Railway System.
PORTLAND, OREG.: Chamber of Commerce.
DAYTON: Greater Dayton Association.

SAVING OF WASTE MATERIAL IN DEPARTMENT WORK.

Secretary of Commerce Redfield has issued instructions to the branches of the department that special attention shall be given to the saving of waste materials, and that systematic efforts shall be made by each bureau to deliver such materials to any other service or department which may have use for them. The statement from the Secretary is as follows:

It is well known that all materials are now bringing high prices and that all industries, as well as our own transportation systems, are overwhelmed because of the demands which the war has added to the normal needs of the country.

Under these conditions a change may, in certain cases, be desirable in the method of disposing of waste materials and of articles which, for any reason are no longer required for use. Such materials and articles may be transferred without compensation or delay and by informal procedure directly to any other Service or Department which has use for them. Particular attention should be given in this connection to the requirements of the Army and the Navy.

One of our Services recently had stored in one place some thousands of pounds of old copper and brass and some tons of old rope. This was awaiting the usual process of sale by auction. It was, however, needed at one of our navy yards, to which it has been transferred, saving the Government a considerable sum.

It is probable that in all the branches of the Department's work materials and articles may be found which can be treated on the same principle. You are, therefore, requested to give instructions that throughout your Service special attention be given to the saving of all waste materials and to their transference as promptly as possible to any other Service of our own or other Department that may require them.

Kindly instruct inspectors, superintendents, and other responsible field officers to give this matter particular care.

Wherever it is practicable to use the vessels, cars, or other vehicles of the Department for this purpose it should be done.

INCREASED IMPORT AND EXCISE DUTIES IN AUSTRALIA.

[Press clippings transmitted by Commercial Attaché Phillip B. Kennedy, Melbourne.]

The anticipation of a decrease in the Commonwealth revenues as a result of the prohibition of the importation of certain articles of luxury (see COMMERCE REPORTS for Aug. 15) has forced the Government to resort to additional revenue-raising measures for the coming year. The increases in import and excise duties specified in the table which follows have been introduced for this purpose and became effective August 10. While the import prohibition on potable spirits actually bars out only 30 per cent of the year's quota, based on imports for the past year, the loss in revenue will be considerable. To compensate this loss the import duty on spirits is raised from 17 shillings to 20 shillings per gallon, proof strength. An increase of about the same amount in the excise duties on spirits, wine, etc., is provided for, and beer also is subject to increase. The additions to the excise duties are in slightly larger proportion than those for import duties.

The exemption of wheat, flour, bags and sacks and materials for their manufacture, and the reduction in duty on cinematograph films were made at the same time as the increases described. The explanation of these changes given by the Minister for Customs is briefly as follows: In view of the possible necessity of shipping Australian wheat via the United States for the use of Great Britain

and the Allies, it was considered advisable to take advantage of the provision of the United States tariff which allows the free admission of wheat, flour, etc., from countries in which United States wheat and flour are admitted free. The interests of the producing industries have been considered in the exemption from duty of bags, sacks, and jute goods. The lower rates on films affect exposed or developed films representing dramatic or Australian subjects and are considered as the equivalent of 25 and 35 per cent, respectively, of the value of the films. The higher duties imposed by the tariff of 1914 were intended to represent the same proportion of the value, which was incorrectly estimated at that time. It has later been ascertained that the average value of imported films is about 4d. per linear foot.

Purpose of Import Prohibitions.

The debate brought forth interesting discussion of the recent import prohibitions. The Minister for Customs referred to the prohibited goods as "articles which are admitted into the Commonwealth as luxuries or articles which the Government thinks can be made in Australia, and consequently give more work to Australian workmen." "We contend," he stated, "that motor bodies can be made in Australia, but the Government is prepared to allow the engines and steel frames of the bodies to come in."

The new import duties are as follows (shilling, \$0.243; penny, \$0.0203; gallon, imperial, 1.2009 U. S. gallons; proof gallon, British, 1.874 U. S. proof gallons; cental, 100 pounds):

Articles.	Rate of duty.	
	New.	Old.
Spirits and spirituous liquors, n. e. l.:	s. d.	s. d.
When not exceeding the strength of proof..... per gallon...	20 0	17 0
Exceeding the strength of proof..... per proof gallon...	20 0	17 0
Spirituous preparations, viz. essences, fruit ethers, aromas and flavors, fluid extracts, sarsaparilla, tinctures, medicines, infusions, toilet preparations, limo juice, and other fruit juices and fruit sirups containing—		
Not more than 25 per cent of proof spirit..... per gallon...	5 0	4 8
More than 25 per cent, but not more than 50 per cent of proof spirit..... do....	10 0	8 6
More than 50 per cent, but not more than 75 per cent of proof spirit..... do....	15 0	12 9
More than 75 per cent of proof spirit, but not over proof..... do....	20 0	17 0
Over proof to be charged as spirituous liquors.		
Wheat..... per cental...	Free.	1 6
Wheaten flour..... do....	Free.	2 6
Hessians; jute piece goods..... ad valorem...	Free.	Per cent. 10
Bags, sacks, packs and bales for bran, chaff, compressed fodder, potatoes, onions, ore, coal, and wool; also sugar mats and sugar, corn, and flour sacks.... ad valorem...	Free.	10
Kinematograph films, exposed:		s. d.
General rate..... per linear foot...	0 1½	0 2
British preferential rate..... do....	0 1	0 1½

^a Classified as "Grain not elsewhere included."

^b General rate, 10 per cent; British preferential, free.

Excise Changes.

The excise taxes on spirits have been increased by the addition of 3, 4, or 5 shillings to the former rates. The addition of 1 penny in each case brings the excise on beer to 6d. for beer brewed from malt and hops and 7d. for other beer. The schedule of the new excise taxes, which is too long to publish in full, will be loaned upon application to the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the Bureau and its district and cooperative offices. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and state opportunity number. The Bureau does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases. Symbols: * Reported by American consular officers; † Reported by commercial attaches and commercial agents; ‡ Direct inquiries received by the Bureau.

In considering the following "opportunities" regard should be had to the regulations requiring export licenses for certain articles.

Cables and ropes.....	25507	Lard.....	25506
Carbide of calcium.....	25505	Machinery.....	25502, 25508
Chemicals and supplies.....	25503, 25504	Mill, gin, and railway stores.....	25502
Coal tar.....	25504	Novelties.....	25506
Coffee, tea, and cocoa.....	25506	Paper.....	25502
Copper.....	25508	Patent medicines.....	25502, 25508
Cotton goods.....	25510	Perfumery.....	25502-25511
Crockery and glassware.....	25502	Petroleum.....	25505
Dried fruits.....	25501	Polishes.....	25509
Drugs.....	25502, 25504	Provisions.....	25502
Electrical goods.....	25502, 25505	Pumps.....	25502
Engines, oil.....	25502	Sizing ingredients.....	25502
Fish nets.....	25507	Stationery.....	25502
Furniture and fittings.....	25502	Stoves.....	25505
Gas generators.....	25505	Tobacco.....	25506
Hardware.....	25502	Varnishes.....	25504
Hemp.....	25506	Wires and cables.....	25505
Lamps.....	25505		

25502.†—A company in India desires to secure an agency for the sale of stationery, provisions and perfumery, patent medicines, drugs, glassware, crockery, papers, general hardware, electrical goods, general machinery, sizing ingredients, furniture and fittings, brass foundry, dynamos and motors, electric fans, oil engines, drilling machines, pumps, and mill, gin, and railway stores. References.

25503.*—An agency is desired by a commission merchant in Spain for the sale of patent medicines, remedies for animals, and chemical and pharmaceutical supplies. Correspondence should be in Spanish. References.

25504.*—A man in Portugal is in the market for coal tar, drugs, anilines, chemicals, varnishes, etc. Quotations should be made f. o. b. New York. Payment will be made against delivery of documents or by confirmed letter of credit. Correspondence may be in English.

25505.†—A firm in India desires to be placed in communication with American manufacturers and exporters of electrical accessories, wire and cables, high-pressure kerosene-oil lamps, gas generators, carbide of calcium, petroleum, all kinds of stoves, pocket lamps, novelties, etc. References.

25506.†—A firm in the Netherlands wishes to act as forwarding agent for American manufacturers and exporters of coffee, tea, cocoa, tobacco, lard, hemp, copper, dried fruits, etc. Correspondence may be in English.

25507.*—A man in Portugal desires to purchase cables, ropes, and nets for fishing. He also wishes to entertain an agency proposition. Quotations should be made f. o. b. American port. Credit will be opened in New York for payment. Correspondence should be in French. References.

25508.*—A company in Italy wishes to secure an agency for the sale of all kinds of manufacturing machinery, especially for graphic arts; paper, pasteboard, and register industry; ignition motors for manufacturing and naval purposes; woodworking machinery and accessories, such as saw blades, etc.; tanning machinery, extracts, and other tanning material; cement machinery, brickmaking machinery; and railroading material for factories. Correspondence should be in French or Italian. References.

25509.*—An agency is desired by a man in Spain for the sale of metal, shoe, and stove polishes. Correspondence should be in Spanish. References.

25510.*—A firm in British East Africa wishes to purchase unbleached cotton piece goods, each piece weighing from 6½ to 7 pounds; indigo drill in pieces of 36 inches by 15 yards; and blue and white cotton shawls, 54 by 72 inches, in pairs. Quotations should be made in English sterling. Payment will be arranged by New York bank credit. The goods should be put up in bales and wrapped with at least 12-ounce burlap, with waterproof lining, and strongly strapped. References.

25511.*—A man in Portugal wishes to purchase perfumeries. He also desires to secure an agency for the sale of these goods. Quotations should be made f. o. b. American port. Credit will be opened in New York. Correspondence should be in French. References.

OCT 4 - 1917
PRINCETON, N. J.

COMMERCE REPORTS

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ISSUED DAILY BY THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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FRENCH CROP ESTIMATES.

[Cablegram from American consul general, Paris, dated Sept. 28.]

Unofficial reports based on unpublished official estimates give the following crop reports for 1917: Wheat, 3,950,000 metric tons; spelt, 90,000; rye, 700,000; barley, 700,000; oats, 3,500,000 tons. For 1916 crops, see my cable of November 29, 1916. [The 1916 crop figures referred to were as follows: Wheat, 5,841,070 metric tons; spelt, 111,427 tons; rye, 911,632 tons; barley, 857,940 tons; oats, 4,127,960 tons.]

PULLMAN SERVICE BETWEEN MEXICO CITY AND SAN ANTONIO.

[Consul General George A. Chamberlain, Mexico City, Mexico, Sept. 19.]

The Mexican Railways announce that a Pullman service will be reestablished between Mexico City, Mexico, and San Antonio, Tex., on September 22, 1917. In addition, beginning from October 1 of this year, it is probable that a sleeping-coach service will be established between Mexico City and the city of Torreon.

ITALIAN SYNDICATE TO PROMOTE FILM EXPORTS.

[Consul General David F. Wilber, Genoa, Aug. 31.]

The Port Bulletin, published at Genoa August 27, 1917, announces the formation of a syndicate to export films. It states that the leading Italian firms interested in the development of the commerce and exports of Italian cinematographic products have taken part in the project, and that the syndicate proposes to promote such exports especially to the markets of North and South America.

"It is affirmed," says the Port Bulletin, "that one of the principal Italian banking institutions has participated in financing the syndicate."

GETTING NEWFOUNDLAND FISH TO FOREIGN MARKETS.

[Consul James S. Benedict, St. John's, Sept. 18.]

Representatives from the Government and Merchants' Association have recently met to discuss the problem of getting codfish and fish products to ports in the Mediterranean. It is stated there are but 16 foreign-going vessels chartered for shipping codfish from the Newfoundland-Labrador ports to foreign markets. These are vessels of the smaller class, averaging a cargo of 4,000 quintals each. Estimating the whole Newfoundland-Labrador catch at 450,000 quintals this season, and that 300,000 quintals will be brought home to ports of Newfoundland proper, 86,000 quintals would be left on the Labrador coast needing to be cared for; consequently it is desired that two large steamships should be obtained to take these away.

The following were the exports of codfish, in quintals of 112 pounds each, from Newfoundland-Labrador to foreign countries for the years 1912 to 1916, the greater portions of which went to Greece, Italy, and Spain: 1912, 194,995 quintals, valued at \$632,482; 1913, 111,876, \$525,817; 1914, 91,039, \$361,448; 1915, 112,260, \$561,300; and 1916, 105,301, \$737,107.

It is estimated that the total value of the present season's Labrador fishery will amount to fully \$3,700,000.

Newfoundland's Winter Fishery.

Owing to the establishment of additional cold-storage plants in Newfoundland, it is probable that the winter fishery will be continued in Placentia, Trinity, and Bonavista Bays, as well as on the south-west coast, until the ice obstructs operations. It is claimed that this is an opportune time to further develop turbot fishing in the deep waters of Trinity Bay, and it is also stated that turbot have been taken recently in Placentia Bay, off Merasheen and Red Island, and in Bonavista Bay, off Redcliffe.

SIAM'S SCHOOL ECONOMICS IN WAR.

[Vice Consul Carl C. Hansen, Bangkok.]

Pursuant with Siam's organization for war (declaration of war was issued against Germany and Austria-Hungary on July 22, 1917), the Minister of Education has issued a circular to all the public schools in the Kingdom urging the teachers to impress upon the school children the necessity for economy in food, dress, and in transport. Jewelry or gold ornaments should not be worn while at school, the Siamese national custom of wearing different colored clothing for each day in the week need not be followed, and wherever possible boys should rather walk to their school than ride on street cars or in carriages. In the girls' schools the dress should be durable, but simple and cheap, ordinarily silk should not be worn, and if lace is added to the dress it should be made by the pupil's own hands. (Gambling of all sorts is forbidden and the teachers are cautioned to see that there is no wastefulness in the use of school stationery or books.

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OPENING OF HANKOW TEA MARKET.

[Vice Consul Raymond C. Mackay, Hankow, China, Aug. 7.]

This year's crop of tea was greatly delayed in reaching the local market, due to a late spring.

Keemuns were the first to arrive and were offered on May 20 at 47 taels per picul (\$42.24 gold per 133½ pounds at \$0.8988), against 51 taels (\$45.84 gold at \$0.8988) of last year. The quality of this year's crop is considered superior to that of last year and it is estimated that the total arrivals of Keemuns this season will be about 101,000 half cases.

Ningchows are reported to be better this year than last, although the improvement is not so marked as in the case of the Keemuns, as the former are too light in the cup.

The market for Hankow teas opened on June 4. Teas from this district are reported to be particularly good this year and in consequence sold well, as did also Nip Ka Sees, Ta Sa Pings, and first pack Shuntams. Other districts, however, have not done so well. Oanfas and Towyuens, which as a rule comprise about 40 per cent of the tea crop of the Hankow district, have been dealt in but little. The total first crop for this region is estimated at 310,000 hair chests, against 405,000 last year.

The sharp rise in exchange, the unwillingness of teamen to lower prices to offset this, the high freight rates to the United States, and the absence of England as a market seemed to force the Russians into prominence as the chief buyers. However, of late Americans have been buying rather heavily, and it is estimated by local teamen that this year's exportation to the United States will be 25 per cent more than last year's in spite of the 60 per cent increase in the laying down cost.

HAY CROP IN THE NETHERLANDS.

[Consul Frank W. Mahin, Amsterdam, Aug. 31.]

An approximate judgment can now be passed on this year's hay crop in the Netherlands, as the second and apparently the last cut is practically finished.

The first cut is reported as about two-thirds of an average crop. The second cut is said to be negligible so far as the general trade is concerned, though country reports indicate a good yield for rural consumers. The writer is informed that much of the grass from this cut is being put into silos (pits in the ground), as the weather is too wet to dry it into hay.

The first cut was relatively small because rain was lacking. The grass for the second cut had rain, but needed more warmth than it received. The net result is apparently only a fair hay crop on the whole, at a time when a large one is sorely needed.

A report from a rural district states prices there at 84 florins (\$33.77) for best quality per ton; but an Amsterdam dealer claims that he must pay 110 florins (\$44.22) for best quality, which he sells here at 125 to 130 florins (\$50.25 to \$52.26) per ton, an increase of about \$4 during the past month.

CIGARETTE MANUFACTURE IN DOMINICAN REPUBLIC.

[Consul Arthur McLean, Puerto Plata, Aug. 30.]

The only manufactories of any consequence in the Dominican Republic are the sugar centrals, a match factory, and the cigarette factories of the *Compania Anonima Tabacalera*.

The *Compania Anonima Tabacalera* was incorporated in 1914 under the laws of the Dominican Republic, with a capital of \$365,000. The stock is closely held in Germany and the Dominican Republic. The company operates two factories, with over 500 employees, the principal one being in Santiago de les Caballeros and a smaller one in Santo Domingo City. It also has a modern and complete lithographic plant in connection with its Santiago factory.

The two factories are equipped throughout with British and American machinery. All the tobacco used is of local production [for a review of the Dominican tobacco industry see *COMMERCE REPORTS* for July 10, 1915], the paper comes from Spain, and the box shooks, and all other materials from the United States. With the exception of small quantities shipped to St. Thomas in the Virgin Islands, all the cigarettes made in the factories of the *Compania Anonima Tabacalera* are consumed in the Dominican Republic.

Output and Prices.

The total output of the two factories is 25,000,000 cigarettes monthly (the company also manufactures 1,000,000 cigars a month), consisting of round and oval-shaped cigarettes of white and brown paper, under four different brands, i. e., *La Habanera*, *La Fama*, *Sport*, and *Casino*. The wholesale price of all brands and varieties of cigarettes is the same, \$10. less 15 per cent, or \$8.50 net, per case containing 500 packages of 12 cigarettes each. All of these brands retail at 2 cents per package of 12 cigarettes.

The tobacco used is of the better class called "tobacco de olor," the price of which ranges at present from \$10 to \$15 per hundred pounds. The cigarettes usually run about 40 pounds to the thousand.

There is only one other small concern besides the *Compania Anonima Tabacalera* making cigarettes in the Dominican Republic.

GRADE OF DOMINICAN CENTRAL RAILROAD REDUCED.

[Consul Arthur McLean, Puerto Plata, Dominican Republic, Aug. 30.]

A new cut-off 3 miles long, between Barrabas and La Sabana, was recently completed by the Dominican Central Railroad, which is owned and operated by the Dominican Government. The new line reduces the grade from $9\frac{1}{2}$ to 3 per cent and the maximum curvature to 32 degrees. This corresponds to the remainder of the road between Bajabonico and Moca, the terminus. The same tonnage that is hauled over the new line may be carried through to the end of the railroad. It is not feasible to reduce this maximum grade of 3 per cent or the degree of curvature, as the cost would be prohibitive.

The new line is laid with 60-pound American rails, all stone ballasted. Bridges and culverts are of reinforced concrete.

The change will greatly reduce the cost of operation and maintenance. The train tonnage will be increased fivefold.

CANARY ISLAND GROWERS TO ATTEMPT NEW YORK MARKET.

[Consul George K. Stiles, Tenerife, Aug. 28.]

Arrangements to continue the shipments of tomatoes to New York begun last February are being now perfected by Canary Island growers. A number of important dealers have united in this attempt, while at least one prominent New York firm has announced the sending here of a representative to study the possibilities of the Canary Island winter tomatoes. This would mean substituting the New York market for the Liverpool market, closed by war conditions. Tomatoes to the value of \$50,000 were sent last February to New York and brought fair returns.

The success of the venture depends entirely on the shipping problem. Growers here have been promised that Spanish steamers will call at either Santa Cruz (Tenerife) or Las Palmas (Grand Canary) twice a month during the tomato season. The winter tomato crop in these islands matures first about December 15 and extends until early in April. The 1916-17 crop was valued at approximately \$450,000, of which at least \$300,000 was left on the ground. A careful attempt is being made to send onions to New York along with early winter tomatoes.

Grapes Also May Be Shipped.

Further, because of an apparent lack of usual supplies, American buyers of Spanish grapes have extended their inquiries into this market. A buyer from a leading New York firm is now here looking over the vineyards in South Tenerife, with a view to shipping this fruit with the tomatoes and onions above mentioned.

The aim of these efforts is to secure sufficient freight to justify the stopping here of the direct New York Spanish vessels on the west-bound trips. The Tenerife Agricultural Society and the Tenerife-American Board of Trade are both working to secure the requisite cargo, as the stopping of the vessels in these islands when bound for New York is dependent on the action of the Spanish Government, which has promised to furnish the vessels if the exports to the United States prove up to the expectations of the various trade bodies that have the movement in hand.

DATING CATALOGUES FOR FOREIGN TRADE.

[Consul James Oliver Lalng, Batavia, Java.]

It is a very good plan for American exporters to put the date, at least the year, on catalogues intended for foreign trade. Recently I was asked for a catalogue of a certain well-known machinery firm. I found one on file, but it looked so old I made inquiries and discovered it had been issued in 1895. No catalogue had been sent since that time.

American shippers and manufacturers should keep consulates supplied with all new catalogues and price lists. They should also state, when sending catalogues, whether they have previously sent copies to the consulate and whether there are changes in the new issue. All this helps the consulate materially in giving prompt and accurate information.

DEVELOPMENT OF SIBERIAN PORT.

[Weekly Bulletin, Canadian Department of Trade and Commerce, Ottawa, Sept. 24.]

The congestion of goods at Vladivostok has drawn the attention of shippers to the port of Nikolaievsk, at the mouth of the Amur River. Owing to the demands of the war and the closing of the Baltic and Black Sea ports, the amount of merchandise imported through Vladivostok has greatly increased as compared with pre-war times. Thus the value of the goods arriving at this port from over-sea countries during 1916 amounted to 771,370,000 rubles, whereas, before the war, this figure never exceeded 80,000,000 rubles. The railway and port facilities, although greatly enlarged, have been unable to cope with the large quantity of merchandise arriving for transshipment into the interior. In order to relieve the resulting congestion, efforts have been made to divert a part of this traffic to other channels of trade. Attention has naturally been attracted to the Amur River system, which affords communication with the interior as far as Stretzensk, a distance of 2,000 miles, whence shipments may be forwarded by the Transsiberian Railway. At the mouth of the river the port of Nikolaievsk-on-Amur provides accommodation for ocean-going vessels. This port was officially opened on June 1, 1916, and, with the completion of the development works now being undertaken, should become one of the leading ports of the Far East.

Favorable Location of Nikolaievsk.

The importance of the port of Nikolaievsk-on-Amur is due to its situation near the mouth of the Amur River, which with its tributaries affords water communication for a great distance into the interior. The Amur is navigable for small river steamers up to the town of Stretzensk, which is connected by rail with the main Siberian line. The distance by rail from Stretzensk to Omsk, the most important commercial center of western Siberia, is 2,438 miles, whereas from Vladivostok the distance is 3,636 miles. There is, therefore, a saving of a rail haul of 1,198 miles on shipments by way of Nikolaievsk-on-Amur, in place of which there is a water carriage of 2,000 miles up the Amur to Stretzensk and transshipment at that point from river craft to railway cars. Steamers double the size of those sailing to Stretzensk can proceed up the river to the important commercial towns of Khabarovsk and Blagovestchensk. The Sungari River, after flowing through northern Manchuria, falls into the Amur not far from Khabarovsk and is navigable to Harbin, thereby rendering possible the carrying on by water of a considerable transit business to and from northeastern China. The excellent water communication afforded by these rivers should attract to Nikolaievsk-on-Amur a large share of the transit trade that at present passes through the ports of Vladivostok and Dairen.

Transport Facilities Available.

The total quantity of goods that can be carried during the season of navigation from Nikolaievsk to Stretzensk by the river vessels at present available may be roughly estimated at 126,000 tons. The greater part of the steamer and barge fleet on the Amur is concentrated in the hands of two large concerns. The oldest transport

company operating on the river is the Amur Steamship and Trading Co. A syndicate of most of the other owners of steamers and barges was recently formed under the name of the Amur Trading Fleet. There are altogether 285 vessels operating under steam, this total comprising fast passenger boats, cargo steamers, and tugs, with a total carrying capacity of 27,000 tons. In addition there are 91 barges, with a total cargo capacity of 54,000 tons. The total carrying capacity of this fleet for the transportation of transit goods with the full guarantee of steam facilities amounts per trip to approximately 63,000 tons. Since the voyage from Nikolaievsk to Stret'yensk and back occupies on the average about 40 days, two trips may be made without difficulty during the season of navigation. Account should also be taken of the fleet of the Chinese Eastern Railway, operating on the Sungari River and consisting of 39 steel barges and 14 steam towing vessels, with a carrying capacity totaling 78,000 tons. With this fleet also available, it should be possible to transport 216,000 tons of transit goods during the period when the river is open, thereby relieving the congested port and railway facilities on the Vladivostok route of this amount of cargo.

Opening of the Port.

The port of Nikolaievsk-on-Amur was used to a certain extent before the war. The Rickmers Line of Hamburg carried regular cargoes to the port every summer for a number of years, while direct shipments of American agricultural and other machinery were also landed for transshipment into the interior. A coastal service was provided by the ships of the Russian Volunteer Fleet. The goods landed at the port consisted for the most part of tea, salt for the fisheries, together with a limited import of iron and steel, and miscellaneous manufactures and condensed milk, while the export cargoes comprised chiefly soya beans, lumber, and fish. The port, however, received no official recognition as such until the outbreak of the war, when the heavy demands upon the railway and port facilities of Vladivostok made it imperative to take steps to relieve the resulting congestion. The Government therefore toward the close of 1915 announced its intention of developing the port of Nikolaievsk-on-Amur and the sum of 1,000,000 rubles was set apart as a first installment toward the cost of constructing a first-class seaport. The port was officially opened on June 1, 1916. The Ministry of Ways and Communications allotted up to 25 railway cars a day for forwarding goods transported by river to Stret'yensk, on condition that preference be given to the conveyance of cotton, machinery, metals, and tanning extracts. Arrangements were also made for special railway rates in connection with foreign goods imported by this route. In spite of these inducements the facilities afforded by the port were not utilized during the season of 1916 to the extent anticipated. It is reported, however, that this year a number of vessels are expected to arrive with cargoes from North America and other countries and the traffic should increase as the advantages of shipment by this route become more apparent.

Harbor Facilities—Discharge and Transshipment.

The town of Nikolaievsk-on-Amur is situated 30 miles from the river estuary. The fairway is considered capable of being made into

one of the finest harbors in the Far East. Development work has been carried on continuously during the last year and a half. Piles have been driven and wharves and warehouses constructed, so that there are now ample facilities for handling all cargoes that are likely to arrive at the port. An excavator dredge has been deepening the river bed alongside the wharves, so as to enable ocean steamers to discharge without having recourse to lighterage. A larger dredge has commenced work on the bar of the river, which hitherto has been the principal drawback to the port. The project calls for a channel with a minimum depth of 24 feet from Nikolaievsk to the sea. This should obviate the necessity of larger vessels having to lighten their cargoes outside the bar before proceeding up the stream.

The rate of discharging cargo at Nikolaievsk-on-Amur at the present time amounts to 4 kopecks per pood, the scale of wages having recently risen. Transit goods that have to be discharged into lighters or warehouses and reshipped in river steamers are charged 25 kopecks per pood for all expenses from steamer to steamer. [At the exchange rate of 20 cents to the ruble, the former would be equivalent to 2.2 cents and the latter to 13.8 cents per 100 pounds.]

Return Freights.

Vessels discharging transit goods at Nikolaievsk-on-Amur will be able to load return cargoes of Siberian and Manchurian products brought down the river to the port. The town should also become an important center in connection with the lumber and fishing industries of the Russian Far East. Up to the present only one sawmill has been established and little interest has been taken in the exportation of lumber. The proposal has, however, been made to provide a special timber harbor above Nikolaievsk where ships will be able to load cargoes for export. In view of the forest resources of the Amur River basin and the length of the streams suitable for the floating down of timber, this trade presents excellent prospects. Nikolaievsk is also the center for the lower Amur River fisheries, which are the most important in the Russian Far East. About 50 kinds of fish are caught, salmon and sturgeon being the principal varieties. Herring are caught in the sea, the bulk of the catch being exported to Japan to be used for the production of fertilizers. The fisheries controlled by organized capital are concentrated near the mouth of the river. A foreign firm has recently secured the concession for the largest fishery in the district and has made contracts with the Government for the erection of hatcheries. In 1907 two salmon canneries were established near Nikolaievsk, but only one is in operation. This industry, however, is expected to develop to a great extent with the falling off in the demand for salt fish for the Army. After fishing, gold mining provides the most employment for the population of the district, one-third of the output being produced by a British firm. Mention may also be made of the soya-bean traffic from Manchuria, which should provide a considerable amount of return freight for ships calling at Nikolaievsk-on-Amur.

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MOTOR-CAR FUELS IN ENGLAND.

[Consul E. Haldeman Dennison, Birmingham, Sept. 3.]

In addition to plans for developing the fuel resources of Ireland, two steps that may have far-reaching effects upon the supply of home-produced motor fuel have just been taken by the British Government. They concern petroleum and benzol. As regards the former a bill has been introduced into Parliament giving the Government power to develop the latent petroleum resources of this country. At present the production of this fuel is a negative quantity, though for the period 1891-1900 there was an average annual production of 67 tons, this decreasing to a mere 8 tons in the ensuing decade, and then ceasing altogether. Experts are satisfied that, given proper development, good supplies will be tapped, since signs of the occurrence of petroleum exist in many parts of the country. For instance, in Staffordshire, which is in the Birmingham district, it occurs in the coal measures of Longton.

The Government, too, it is stated, is taking steps to assist in the marketing of benzol after the war through the agency of the Anglo-Persian Oil Co., in which it holds a predominant interest. The proposal is that the British Petroleum Co., formerly a German concern but now a British subsidiary of the Anglo-Persian Oil Co., should actually handle the spirit, of which vast quantities should be available when benzol is no longer required in connection with the production of high explosives.

Coal Gas Successful—Benzol and Peat Alcohol.

The great shortage existing in the supply of gasoline and its high price has resulted in drawing attention to coal gas, and its use as an alternative fuel is growing rapidly. In this district many firms are beginning to use coal gas to either augment their inadequate gasoline allowance or to keep their vehicles running in the absence of any gasoline supplies. The Walsall Corporation has been experimenting with this new fuel with such success that it is understood all the motor busses owned by that municipality are about to be altered for running on coal gas. If a reasonably light metal container for compressed gas could be placed on the market there would be a big future for this fuel. With compressed gas the distance that could be covered on one charge would be much greater than is at present the case with gas at atmospheric pressure. [A report on the use of city gas as fuel for motor omnibuses in Scotland appeared in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for Aug. 21, 1917.]

The Government has also decided to investigate the possibilities of Irish peat as a fuel. Peat is one of many available sources of alcohol. Most engines can be run on a half-and-half mixture of alcohol and benzol, and both of the spirits comprising this mixture are produced in the United Kingdom—the former in unlimited quantities, since it is a vegetable product, and the latter to the extent of about 100,000,000 gallons per annum (after the war). This means that the country ought to be able to produce 200,000,000 gallons annually of an alcohol-benzol motor fuel, or nearly twice the amount of gasoline that was being imported annually before the war.

COMMERCE THROUGH THE SAULT STE. MARIE CANALS.

AUGUST.

Articles.	United States Canal.		Canadian Canal.		Total.	
	1916	1917	1916	1917	1916	1917
EASTBOUND.						
Copper.....short tons..	12,682	20,519	173	2,305	19,855	22,824
Grain.....bushels..	3,717,589	3,011,899	5,311,716	1,093,395	9,029,305	4,105,294
Flour.....barrels..	965,351	476,321	435,440	489,170	1,430,791	965,491
Iron ore.....short tons..	8,051,430	8,252,065	1,740,603	1,960,891	9,791,933	10,212,956
Pig iron.....do.....	2,004	2,800			2,004	2,800
Lumber.....M feet..	53,745	66,023	2,636	3,081	56,380	69,104
Wheat.....bushels..	12,822,181	5,160,162	12,651,746	3,689,144	25,473,927	8,849,306
General merchandise, short tons..	53,038	32,111	11,666	11,284	64,704	43,395
Passengers.....number..	5,616	3,427	5,230	4,242	10,846	7,669
WESTBOUND.						
Coal:						
Hard.....short tons..	308,136	352,533	14,000	19,350	322,136	371,883
Soft.....do.....	2,232,725	2,385,527	192,216	162,442	2,424,941	2,547,969
Flour.....barrels..	20				20	
Grain.....bushels..	1,200	725			1,200	725
Manufactured iron, short tons..	18,146	17,102	2,035	1,758	20,181	18,860
Iron ore.....do.....	11,424	1,020			11,424	1,020
Salt.....barrels..	86,133	53,067	5,250		91,383	53,067
General merchandise, short tons..	134,614	141,326	39,003	37,195	174,217	178,521
Passengers.....number..	5,051	3,037	6,215	5,356	11,266	8,393
TOTAL.						
Freight:						
Eastbound.....short tons..	8,786,661	8,682,110	2,278,012	2,158,683	11,064,673	10,840,793
Westbound.....do.....	2,717,985	2,905,570	248,604	220,745	2,966,589	3,126,315
Total.....do.....	11,504,646	11,587,680	2,526,616	2,379,428	14,031,262	13,967,108
Vessel passages.....number..	2,800	2,682	1,071	852	3,871	3,544
Registered tonnage.....net..	8,250,326	8,074,706	1,851,311	1,766,989	10,101,637	9,840,795

FIVE MONTHS ENDING AUGUST.

EASTBOUND.						
Copper.....short tons..	61,773	68,240	2,936	7,102	64,709	75,342
Grain.....bushels..	26,152,588	32,060,271	25,939,982	12,782,953	52,092,570	44,843,224
Flour.....barrels..	3,107,598	2,349,041	1,749,970	1,763,178	4,857,568	4,152,250
Iron ore.....short tons..	30,253,155	27,748,513	7,565,480	7,727,984	37,838,635	35,476,517
Pig iron.....do.....	19,619	5,724			19,619	5,724
Lumber.....M feet..	187,649	210,979	7,716	5,443	195,365	216,422
Wheat.....bushels..	86,006,155	52,782,186	55,499,066	33,420,143	141,505,221	86,202,329
General merchandise, short tons..	118,217	101,974	46,379	31,666	164,596	133,640
Passengers.....number..	10,992	5,417	12,810	9,639	23,802	15,056
WESTBOUND.						
Coal:						
Hard.....short tons..	1,244,584	1,306,985	61,010	109,300	1,305,594	1,418,285
Soft.....do.....	8,548,804	7,064,943	609,296	642,101	9,158,100	7,707,044
Flour.....barrels..	225	80	12,960		13,185	80
Grain.....bushels..	3,760	1,475			3,760	1,475
Manufactured iron, short tons..	89,083	53,520	7,560	10,178	96,663	63,698
Iron ore.....do.....	14,479	32,757	14,448	5,248	28,927	38,006
Salt.....barrels..	426,668	269,553	38,787	68,600	465,455	338,153
General merchandise, short tons..	578,341	586,858	188,735	165,994	767,076	752,852
Passengers.....number..	10,389	4,810	13,073	11,202	23,462	16,012
TOTAL.						
Freight:						
Eastbound.....short tons..	34,159,487	30,687,158	9,962,214	9,191,193	44,121,701	39,878,351
Westbound.....do.....	10,539,386	9,067,528	887,886	942,621	11,427,272	10,030,149
Total.....do.....	44,698,873	39,774,686	10,850,100	10,133,814	55,548,973	49,908,500
Vessel passages.....number..	11,261	9,814	4,145	3,307	15,406	13,121
Registered tonnage.....net..	33,722,372	30,125,161	8,188,161	7,808,520	41,906,523	37,723,681

IRON AND STEEL INDUSTRIES OF LUXEMBURG.

[British (Government) Board of Trade Journal, Sept. 6.]

The following notes on the iron and steel industries in Luxemburg in war time are taken from a review in a recent issue of the *Borsen Zeitung* (Berlin) of a book upon the subject, which has been prepared for the Luxemburg Chamber of Commerce:

The war has greatly affected the iron and steel industries of Luxemburg, the reason for this being found in the fact that the Luxemburg works are situated so near the theater of war. Directly after mobilization the Minette ore mines were obliged to shut down parts of their works and to reduce greatly their output in other parts, owing to the shortage in supplies of coal and coke. Most of the 47 blast furnaces were closed down, only 7 being in operation in September, 1914.

Since then, although the position has been considerably improved, the works have been short of both labor and materials: many foreign workmen have gone, and supplies of coal, coke, limestone, etc., have been delayed, owing to the inadequacy of transport facilities for goods. At times, it is said, goods traffic was stopped for weeks. Prior to the war cheap French and Belgian limestone was utilized in the Luxemburg works, and there has been a considerable increase in production costs as dearer limestone, procured from the quarries of west Germany, has now to be utilized.

Output for Past Four Years.

The output for the last four years from the blast furnaces, steel works, and iron foundries of Luxemburg was:

Output from—	1913	1914	1915	1916
	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>
Blast furnaces.....	2,547,861	1,827,270	1,590,773	1,580,530
Steel works.....	1,182,227	1,136,495	980,385	935,716
Foundries.....	26,513	22,964	10,649	24,672

The quantities represent metric tons of 2,204.6 pounds.

The output of foundry, ordinary (Thomas), and puddling iron in the Grand Duchy in 1913-1916 was:

Products.	1913	1914	1915	1916
	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>
Foundry iron.....	172,013	101,163	171,106	179,759
Ordinary (Thomas) grades.....	2,360,487	1,711,502	1,418,247	1,400,270
Puddling iron.....	15,361	11,605	1,420	410

REDUCED FREIGHT RATES ON AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY IN MEXICO.

[Consul General George A. Chamberlain, Mexico City, Sept. 17.]

The Secretary of Communications and Public Works in Mexico City has sanctioned the adoption of a new tariff of freight rates for the transportation of agricultural machinery from one point of Mexico to another by the Constitutional Railways. The new tariff reduces the ordinary freight rates by over 40 per cent.

COMMERCE OF ALASKA WITH THE UNITED STATES.

The movement of merchandise between Alaska and the United States reached its highest record in the fiscal year ended June 30, 1917, aggregating practically \$100,000,000 in round numbers. The exact figures are \$99,765,908 in 1917, exceeding the trade in 1916, the previous high year, by 23½ million dollars, and more than double the trade in 1915, which amounted to \$48,702,387.

The shipments of merchandise from Alaska to the United States were valued at \$60,773,850, of which \$60,135,205 was of domestic and \$638,645 of foreign production. The shipments of merchandise from the United States to Alaska amounted to \$38,992,049, of which \$38,427,618 represented domestic production and \$564,431 foreign. The merchandise shipped from the United States to Alaska represents a per capita purchasing power of \$600 based on the estimated population of 64,828 in 1916. The shipments from the United States to Alaska exceed the exports to China, which has a population of 336,000,000. The exports to China in 1917 were about \$35,000,000, only 10½ cents per capita.

Large Increase in Copper Shipments.

Copper ore, matte, and regulus represented more than one-half of the value of shipments to the United States and canned salmon more than one-third. The value of domestic copper shipments to the United States for the year ended June 30, 1917, was \$33,098,190 against \$5,182,004 for 1915, an increase of almost \$28,000,000 in two years. Canned salmon shipments were 231,372,337 pounds valued at \$21,195,612 in 1917, against 192,254,877 pounds valued at \$17,590,317 in 1916. The shipments of canned salmon to the United States in 1917 averaged more than 2½ pounds per capita. Besides canned salmon, Alaska sold to the United States other salmon valued at \$1,034,112; fresh fish, \$764,320; cured fish, \$183,773; kippered herring, \$112,254; pickled fish, \$253,469; and all other fish—chiefly shrimp and oysters—valued at \$290,122.

In 1917, 7,061 sealskins valued at \$211,830 were shipped from Alaska to the United States against 2,884 skins valued at \$115,360 in 1915, an increase of 145 per cent in the number of skins shipped in 1917 compared with 1915. The average value per skin was \$30 in 1917 against \$40 in 1915.

Other principal commodities shipped to the United States in 1917 were fertilizers valued at \$28,959; gypsum, \$62,000; antimony ore, \$178,215; lead ore, \$95,593; tin ore, \$54,147; tungsten ore, \$54,870; and stone, \$110,101.

Principal Shipments from United States.

The principal shipments to Alaska from the United States were breadstuffs, \$1,303,218; cars and automobiles, \$721,358; cotton manufactures, \$1,530,197; explosives, \$1,278,026; fiber manufactures, \$865,150; fruits and nuts, \$842,876; manufactures of iron and steel, \$10,141,416, in which are included 38,828,357 pounds of tin plates valued at \$2,501,759; meat and dairy products, \$3,493,876; mineral oils, \$1,385,186; paper manufactures, \$740,971; tin manufactures, chiefly tin cans, nested cans and tin-can tops, \$3,894,165; tobacco manufactures, \$802,730; vegetables, \$829,498; and manufactures of wood, \$1,822,459.

Gold ranks third in value of Alaskan products shipped to the United States in 1917. The gold shipments amounted to \$15,409,529, and the silver shipments to \$683,824. The gold and silver shipments from the United States to Alaska during last year amounted to \$1,698,065.

REDUCTION OF DUTY AND FREE ADMISSION INTO MEXICO.

[Consul General George A. Chamberlain, Mexico City, Sept. 19.]

The following items of agricultural machinery are to be exempt from import duty from October 1:

Plows of all kinds, irrespective of the number of disks; wheat thrashers; grain winnowers; harrows; centrifugal pumps for irrigation and any other pumps for drawing water; sickles and scythes or hay cutters; scrapers for grading or leveling lands and other similar work; cultivators; grain thrashers; cotton gins; dirt sifters or screens; coffee shellers; silos; fodder cutters; hay presses; fiber-cleaning machinery; hemp hacklers; reaping machines; seeders; tractors for ground tillage; thrashers; electrical shearers; and in general all kinds of agricultural machinery, including spare and repair parts.

Iron pipe for irrigation will also be exempt, but in every instance of such importation previous permission must be obtained from the following three Ministries: Fomento, Hacienda, and Comercio and Industrias.

The same decree reduces the duty on barbed wire (no other kind of wire or fencing being included) to 1 peso per 100 kilos, gross weight. (Peso, par value, \$0.498; kilo, 2.2 pounds.)

[The ordinary duty on barbed wire (tariff No. 218) is 3.50 pesos per 100 kilos, gross weight. A surtax of 100 per cent of the duty, payable in depreciated paper and equivalent to about 3 per cent ad valorem, is charged on all imports into Mexico. The free importation of agricultural machinery was announced in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for Sept. 22.]

FISHERIES STATION POTATOES TAKE PRIZE.

The following letter has been received by the Secretary of Commerce from Superintendent C. G. Corliss, of the Gloucester (Mass.) station of the United States Bureau of Fisheries:

Knowing the interest taken by the department this year in vegetable gardens operated on Government reservations, I herewith report the following facts concerning a small vegetable garden planted on Ten Pound Island by William S. Charlton, temporary cook at the fishery station:

Mr. Charlton planted one-half bushel Green Mountain potatoes (these were ordinary potatoes bought from the market) and this fall he harvested seven bushels of fine large potatoes.

At the exhibition of vegetables and flowers held in this district September 11 and 12 these potatoes took first prize in competition with many professional gardeners.

OFFICES OF THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE.

DISTRICT OFFICES.

NEW YORK: 734 Customhouse.
BOSTON: 1861 Customhouse.
CHICAGO: 504 Federal Building.
ST. LOUIS: 402 Third National Bank Building.
NEW ORLEANS: 1020 Hibernia Bank Building.
SAN FRANCISCO: 307 Customhouse.
SEATTLE: 846 Henry Building.

COOPERATIVE OFFICES.

CLEVELAND: Chamber of Commerce.
CINCINNATI: Chamber of Commerce.
CINCINNATI: General Freight Agent, Southern Railway, 96 Ingalls Building.
LOS ANGELES: Chamber of Commerce.
PHILADELPHIA: Chamber of Commerce.
CHATTANOOGA: South American Agent, Southern Railway System.
PORTLAND, OREG.: Chamber of Commerce.
DAYTON: Greater Dayton Association.

MARKET SOUGHT FOR CAPYBARA SKINS.

[Consul Homer Brett, La Guaira, Venezuela.]

In the valleys of the Orinoco River and its tributaries are found millions of "chiguire." This animal, more properly called the capybara, is the largest living rodent, and is common throughout South America from Venezuela to central Argentina. It is sometimes called the "carpincho" as well as the "chiguire." It is aquatic, inhabiting the marshy banks of brackish streams, and is notorious for the great damage that it does to neighboring sugar plantations. When full grown the animal is about 4 feet long and has a girth of 3 feet, weighing nearly 100 pounds. The skin is thick, and is covered with a rough, brown coat of short coarse hair. The animal has a heavy, flat head, and very short tail.

The chiguire have been officially pronounced undesirable animals, and the Government of Venezuela advocates their extermination. No use for their skins, however, has ever been found. A firm at San Fernando de Apure, Venezuela, exporters of hides and skins, offers to send samples of these chiguire pelts to any firm of specialists in the tanning business which would like to attempt to find a use and a market for them. This firm would also like to find a market for alligator and jaguar skins, and to form new connections with importers of cattle hides and deerskins.

[The name of the firm mentioned may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 91032.]

NEW TEXTILE FACTORY IN ECUADOR.

[Consul General Frederic W. Goding, Guayaquil, Aug. 28.]

There has been organized recently at Riobamba a corporation, "Fabrica de Tejidos de El Prado," for the manufacture on a large scale of cotton textiles, which is to be in operation at the beginning of 1918. The subscribed capital is about \$100,000, and 600 people will be employed.

The machinery, of the most approved class, has been purchased in the United States, and a supply of raw cotton has been arranged for to keep the factory going for some time.

Not only will the domestic market be supplied, but an effort is to be made to secure a portion of the foreign trade in textiles.

FISHES OF LAHONTAN SYSTEM OF NEVADA AND CALIFORNIA.

"The fishes of the Lahontan system of Nevada and northeastern California" is the subject of Document No. 843 which has been published by the United States Bureau of Fisheries. The system mentioned drains a huge basin embracing about 40,700 square miles, and includes six isolated basins—the Truckee River, Honey Lake, Eagle Lake, Quinn River, Walker River, and the Carson-Humboldt. Fifteen native species of fishes are now recognized in the Lahontan system. A systematic discussion of these species is presented. Copies of the publication may be obtained at 10 cents each from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C.

PROPOSALS FOR GOVERNMENT SUPPLIES AND CONSTRUCTION.

[Correspondence should be direct with the offices named, and specifications and other information can usually be obtained at the points where the goods are to be delivered or the work is to be performed. In cases where the time limit is too short to permit firms to submit tenders, they should ask to be placed on the mailing lists of such offices to receive notices calling for future supplies or work of a similar nature.]

Sale of lighthouse property, No. 4796.—Sealed proposals will be received by the Lighthouse Inspector, Buffalo, N. Y., for the sale of a portion of lighthouse property on Carleton Island, St. Lawrence River, N. Y., including dwelling, suitable for summer home.

Library shelving, No. 4797.—Sealed proposals will be received in the office of the Chief Clerk, Department of Commerce, Nineteenth and Pennsylvania Avenue NW., Washington, D. C., until October 11, 1917, for nine stacks of metal library shelving for use in the Department of Commerce.

Repair of tender, No. 4798.—Sealed proposals will be received by the Lighthouse Inspector, New Orleans, La., for docking and repairing tender *Sunflower*.

Chain fence, No. 4799.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Bureau of Standards, Washington, D. C., until October 3, 1917, for furnishing and erecting about 3,000 feet of chain-link fence on the premises of the bureau. It is essential that bidders visit the site.

Heating system, No. 4800.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Bureau of Yards and Docks, Navy Department, Washington, D. C., until October 22, 1917, for furnishing and installing a heating system in the structural shop at the navy yard, Philadelphia, Pa. Specifications No. 2570.

Purchase of vessel, No. 4801.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Navy Department until October 24, 1917, for the sale to the Government of a vessel of American registry, ready for immediate use or capable of appropriate alteration by the Government, suitable for use by the naval militia of Illinois.

Filling swamp, No. 4802.—Sealed proposals will be received by the Lighthouse Inspector, Portland, Oreg., for furnishing material for filling swamp at Browns Point Light Station, Washington.

Toilet fixtures, No. 4803.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Bureau of Standards until October 3, 1917, for furnishing and installing toilet fixtures in Room 23, North Building, Bureau of Standards.

INTEREST RATES ON ITALIAN TREASURY BONDS.

[Consul General David F. Wilber, Genoa, Aug. 21.]

The *Gazzetta Ufficiale*, published at Rome, August 14, 1917, contains a decree of the Minister of the Treasury in regard to the interest to be realized on ordinary treasury bonds. It provides:

From the 16th day of August, 1917, and until otherwise ordered the interest on ordinary treasury bonds shall be prepaid in the following proportions:

For bonds which reach maturity in from 3 to 5 months in the proportion of 3.75 lire per cent per annum.

For bonds which reach maturity in from 6 to 8 months in the proportion of 4.50 lire per cent per annum.

For bonds which reach maturity in from 9 to 12 months in the proportion of 4.75 lire per cent per annum.

SAVE YOUR MONEY

To Buy a Bond of the Second Liberty Loan of 1917.

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the Bureau and its district and cooperative offices. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and state opportunity number. The Bureau does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases. Symbols: * Reported by American consular officers; † Reported by commercial attachés and commercial agents; ‡ Direct inquiries received by the Bureau.

In considering the following "opportunities" regard should be had to the regulations requiring export licenses for certain articles.

Asbestos packing and sheets.....	25527	Household utensils.....	25530
Belting.....	25527	Lanterns and lamps.....	25527
Bobbins.....	25527	Machinery.....	25525, 25527, 25531
Bolts and nuts.....	25527	Nails.....	25527
Canned goods.....	25527	Netting, wire and mosquito.....	25527
Cotton.....	25528	Oils and greases.....	25527
Drugs, chemicals, and patent medicine.....	25527	Piece goods.....	25527
Dyes and colors.....	25527	Ropes.....	25527
Electrical goods.....	25527	Rubber goods.....	25527, 25529
Files.....	25527	Sardines.....	25528
Food products.....	25523	Shovels.....	25527
Gin stores.....	25527	Stump pullers.....	25524
Hardware.....	25527, 25530	Tools.....	25527
Hose and hose pipes.....	25527	Yarns.....	25527

25523.†—A society in France wishes to be placed in communication with American manufacturers and exporters of preserves, smoked meat, salt meat, canned meat, dried fruits, rice, etc. The object of this society is to help the Belgian refugees residing in France.

25524.*—A commission merchant in Spain desires to secure an agency for the sale of stump pullers. Correspondence should be in Spanish. References.

25525.†—A man in India wishes to be placed in communication with American manufacturers and exporters of complete machinery and equipment for the manufacture of potato starch farina, hosiery machinery, complete machinery for making gas mantles, bolt and nut machinery, soap and candle machinery, machinery for manufacturing coal tar and sulphur dyes, machinery for making paints, varnishes, oils, dry colors, etc., and all kinds of industrial machinery. Catalogues, illustrations, and estimate on above machinery should be submitted.

25526.*—A company in England desires to purchase sardines and sardines in tomatoes. Quotations should be made f. o. b. New York or San Francisco. Payment will be made by cash against documents in the United States. References.

25527.†—A company in India wishes to be placed in communication with American manufacturers and exporters of piece goods, machinery, gin stores, hardware, dyes, colors, belting, grease, oils, lanterns, lamps, electrical goods, drugs, chemicals, patent medicines and drugs, wire nails, rosin, alum, rubber tubes, rubber sheets, asbestos packing and sheets, bobbins, bolts, nuts, hose pipes, rubber hose wire protected, cotton ropes, yarns, magnesium, chloride, zinc chloride, farina, files, tools, shovels, canned goods, wire netting, long cloth, drill, mosquito netting, flannel, etc., with a view to securing an agency for the sale of these goods. References.

25528.*—A firm in Portugal desires to secure an agency for the sale of cotton. Quotations should be made f. o. b. New York. Credit will be opened by telegram. Correspondence should be in French. Reference.

25529.*—An agency is desired by a man in Spain for the sale of rubber goods, elastic, mackintoshes, rubber corks, and pneumatic tires. Correspondence should be in Spanish. References.

25530.*—A man in France wishes to secure an agency for the sale of hardware, household articles in aluminum or enamel, etc. Correspondence should be in French. Reference.

25531.*—A firm in Colombia desires to purchase spinning and weaving machinery, consisting of 50 looms, 1 vertical opener, automatic self-regulating hopper feeder, single scutcher ring spinning frames for weft, double bobbin reels, and upright spindle winding frame. Payment will be made by one-third on placing order and two-thirds on receipt of goods. Correspondence may be in English. References.

PRINCETON, N. J.

COMMERCE REPORTS

DAILY CONSULAR AND TRADE REPORTS
ISSUED DAILY BY THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

For sale by the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C., at \$2.50 per year



No. 231 Washington, D. C., Wednesday, October 3 1917

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ADMISSION OF SILK IMPORTS INTO UNITED KINGDOM.

[Cablegram from American Consul General, London, Oct. 1.]

Silk and silk manufactures, pure and mixed, will be admitted freely hereafter, articles containing one-fourth silk by weight or wholly silk in warp or weft to be treated as silk manufactures. Consignments will be licensed on receipt of shipping particulars.

[Notice of the authorization of the admission of certain quantities of silk manufactures from the United States, under license from British authorities, was given in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for Aug. 7.]

CONDITION OF DUTCH CROPS.

[Cablegram from American Chargé d'Affaires, The Hague, dated Sept. 20.]

Taking figure 100 as excellent and 67 as average crop, Minister of Agriculture on September 15 rates this year's wheat harvest 57; rye, 65; barley, 65; oats, 56; meadow grass, 70, was rated 47 last June.

PARCEL-POST SERVICE WITH GREECE SUSPENDED.

The United States Post Office Department announces that existing conditions prevent the operation of the parcel-post service with Greece which previously has been maintained according to the convention in force between that country and the United States, and that the service has been suspended until further notice. Postmasters have been notified to refuse to accept parcel-post packages for mailing to Greek points until otherwise instructed. Such packages for that country as have been mailed, or which may be mailed inadvertently hereafter, will be returned to the senders, and the postage that has been prepaid will be refunded to them if application is made in accordance with section 461, Postal Laws and Regulations.

ARTICLES NOT REQUIRING EXPORT LICENSE AT PRESENT.

The Exports Administrative Board has determined that, under the President's proclamation of August 27, 1917, the following articles do not require an export license at present except when shipped to Albania, Austria-Hungary, that portion of Belgium occupied by the military forces of Germany, Bulgaria, Denmark (her colonies, possessions, or protectorates), Germany (her colonies, possessions, or protectorates), Greece, Liechtenstein, Luxemburg, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Norway, Spain (her colonies, possessions, or protectorates), Sweden, Switzerland, or Turkey (excluding any portion of the foregoing occupied by the military forces of the United States or the nations associated with the United States in the war), or any territory occupied by the military forces of Germany or her allies.

The Board has further determined that if any of these articles are subsequently classified as requiring a license, nevertheless, they will in general be allowed to proceed without license when covered by ocean bill of lading or by railroad bill of lading marked "For Export," dated on or before the date classified. There may, of course, be some special instances where for certain reasons the embargo will have to be effective immediately regardless of when the goods were shipped, but these cases will be rare and special attention will be called to them at the time publicity is given to the fact that they have been classified as requiring a license. All future classification lists will give the date of classification and will be given publicity so as to minimize any question in the minds of shippers or carriers as to what articles do and what articles do not require a license.

The articles which do not require export licenses follow:

Absorbent cotton.	Arsenic.	Benzidine.
Acetic acid.	Arsenic hide poison.	Benzidine base.
Acetic anhydride.	Asbestos.	Benzidine sulphate.
Acetate of cobalt.	Asbestos paper.	Benzo violet.
Acetate of lead.	Asbestos pulp.	Benzoic acid.
Acetate of lime.	Asphalt.	Benzyl alcohol.
Acetate of soda.	Attenuators.	Bouillon cubes.
Acetylene burners.	Augers.	Burnt sugar coloring.
Acid:	Automobiles and parts.	Beehive material.
Tartaric.	Auto mirrors.	Beans.
Hydro fluoric.	Auto lamps.	Beer.
Adding machines.	Autopeds.	Beverage mixers.
Addressograph machinery	Axes.	Bicycle supplies.
Advertising matter.	Axles (wagon).	Bismark brown.
Agricultural tools.	Baking powder.	Bismuth subgallie
Air compressor and parts.	Balata sheets (used for	Black tire tape.
All aniline sulphur colors.	insulating).	Blades (hacksaw).
All aniline direct colors.	Baling press (steel).	Blowers and parts.
Alcin (drugs).	Bacillus bulgarius.	Bichromate of soda.
Almond oil.	Ball bearings.	Bollers (range) for
Alum.	Balsam tolu.	household purposes
Aluminum paint.	Barbed wire.	only.
Ammonia condensers.	Bars, iron or steel (ex-	Bolts.
Ammonia valves and pipe	cept tool steel, high	Bolt clippers.
fittings.	speed steel or alloy	Books.
Amorphous phosphorus.	steel).	Borax.
Anise seed.	Baskets.	Boric acid.
Antiphrine.	Bathroom specialties.	Braces.
Antimony (black).	Bauxite ore.	Brake shoes.
Antiphlogistine.	Beaver board.	Brake lining.
Arabicum paste powder.	Benzaldehyde.	Brick.

Bromide soda.	Conduit material.	Gibsonite (ulintahite).
Bronzes (articles made of).	Cork tipping bobbins.	Glass—fruit jars, common, shades, plate.
Broom root and broom corn.	Corks.	Glacial acetic acid.
Brushes.	Corn (canned).	Glauber salts.
Builders' hardware.	Corn shellers.	Glue.
Bull rings.	Cotton waste.	Gocarts.
Calcii chlor.	Countersinks.	Gold enamel.
Callipers.	Crackers, soda.	Graders (road).
Calcium carbide.	Crane chain.	Grain separator.
Calcium chloride.	Crayon, marking.	Graphophones.
Cameras and kodaks.	Cream of tartar.	Grass catchers.
Camphor.	Crusher repairs.	Grass seed.
Candy.	Currycombs.	Grate bars (locomotive).
Caned chairs.	Cutlery.	Grindstones (if not driven by power).
Canned fruits, vegetables, paints.	Cyclometers.	Gum acacia.
Capsules.	Dental supplies.	Gum arabic.
Carbon (black).	Die plates.	Gum-cloth tape.
Carbon paper.	Delta turpurine.	Gum olibanum.
Carbonate of magnesia.	Dolls.	Gum opium.
Carpenters' tools.	Drugs (most synthetic, in moderate quantities).	Gum tragacanth.
Car seals.	Dredging buckets (iron).	Hair goods (not wool).
Carriage hardware.	Dried fruits.	Hammers and hatchets.
Casings, sausage and hog.	Driving chain.	Hand-power crane.
Congo red.	Dry color carbon black.	Harvester parts.
Celluloid.	Elevator repair parts.	Hay presses.
Calculagraph.	Elevator machinery.	Hinges.
Celluloid collars and combs.	Enamel, enamaline, gold, sapolin, toasters.	Hoes.
Cereals, except oat meal and rolled oats.	Envelopes.	Hog casings.
Carbonic gas.	Eosina.	Honey.
Chair seats.	Epsom salts.	Hoops, steel.
Channel pins.	Fan belts, except leather.	Hose, water, rubber, duck, clamps.
Calcined magnesia (furnace cement).	Ferris alum.	Heiltropin crystals.
Charcoal.	Fiberloid.	Hydrogen peroxide.
Cinchona bark.	Fiber brushes.	Hernabaloids.
Chip board.	Fiber tubing.	Hydrometers.
Clips (paper).	Files (except abrasive files).	Hydrated lime.
Choppers, food.	Filling cabinets (metal).	Hydrofluoric acid.
Chrome alum.	Fire clay.	Hygrometers.
Chronometers.	Flavoring extracts.	Hyposulphite of soda.
Chucks.	Fleshing cylinder and blades.	Hypophosphites, Fellows.
Churns.	Formaldehyde.	Injectors.
Cocoa beans.	Flour mill and parts.	Inks, printing.
Cigar boards.	Food choppers.	Ivory.
Colloidion.	Forges and accessories.	Instant postum.
Cinnamon.	Formalin.	Iodine.
Copper paint.	Formalypsol.	Irrigators, white enamel.
Citric acid.	Fruits, canned, dried.	Iron band.
Clips, paper.	Fuller's earth.	Iron bars.
Clocks.	Furniture, office.	Iron casting.
Cotton yarn.	Galvanized wire.	Indanthrene blue G. C. D. paste.
Cobbler's tools.	Galvanized tiller rope.	Iron hose fittings.
Cresoline.	Gas machine and fixtures.	Irons, flat.
Cocoa.	Gentian.	Iron glycerophosphate powder.
Cresote.	Gas pipe.	Iron oil separator.
Cocoa powder.	Grate bars.	Iron pipe fittings.
Coca cola.	Gum clemi.	Iron pipe.
Coffee.	Gas tubes.	Iron plates or sheets under $\frac{1}{4}$ inch thick.
Coffee substitutes.	Gauze, hospital.	Iron rivets.
Coffin trimmings.	Gelatine capsules.	Iron valves.
Compressors.	German silver.	Iron wire.

Jacks.
Jewelry.
Jewelry samples.
Journal bearings.
Journal boxes.
Ketchup.
Keys.
Kodaks and cameras.
Lamps and chimneys.
Lawn mowers.
Leatherboard, composed
of leather scraps, paper,
etc.

Lactic acid.
Leather, imitation.
Lime mixing tanks.
Lithium benzoate.
Linotype machine and
parts.

Leather trunks, purses,
jewelry cases.

Linoleum.
Linseed-oil dryer.
Lithographic stone.
Lithographic supplies.
Locks, see padlocks.
Logwood extract.
Lobelia herb.
Locomotive grate bars.
Macaroni.
Magnesia.

Machinery:
Cigarette, knitting,
perforating (ex-
cept for metal),
mining, wool-
cleaning, refriger-
ating, enameling,
braiding (for elec-
trical wire),
match-making,
shoe, winding, pa-
per-making, pa-
per-box, stump-
pulling, pharma-
ceutical, printing,
concrete, paper-
wrapping, washing,
sugar, stenciling,
filters and parts,
duplicating, cotton-
gin, tobacco, mold-
ing.

Mangle roller blocks.
Malleable-iron steam pipe
fittings.

Methyl salicylate.
Magenta crystals.
Marble base.
Matches.
Mattocks (picks).
Mentholum.
Menthol salve.
Metal fasteners.
Metal picture frames.

Metal valves.
Methyl violet.
Methylene blue.
Mills, grist.
Mineral water.
Mirroroid screen.
Monazite sand.
Motorcycle.
Muriatic acid.
Mustard.
Nails.
Nail wire.
Nalther tablets.
Needles and awls.
Newspapers (old).
Nicotine sulphate.
Nigrosene crystals.
Nutmegs.
Ocher.
Office furniture.
Oil burners.
Oil of anise.
Oilcloth.
Oil of cloves.
Oil heaters.
Orange No. 2.
Oillstones.
Old Dutch Cleanser.
Olives.
Organs.
Oxalic acid.
Oxide of iron paint.
Padlock.

Peas.
Paints.
Paper:
Paper caps (toy),
mimeograph, car-
tridge, tissue,
waxed, papeteries,
perforating, draw-
ing, blotting, writ-
ing, wrapping, fric-
tion glazed, wall,
cover.

Paper-cutting machine.
Paraffin.
Paris green.
Phenacetine.
Pearl buttons.
Phenylene-diamine.
Para-phenylenediamine.
Meta-phenylenediamine.
Phenolphthalein.
Pencils (lead).
Phosphorus.
Pens, fountain and parts.
Perforating paper.
Pyrogallie acid.
Phosphate (sodium).
Photo chemicals.
Photographic mounts.
Photographic paper.
Planos.
Pickles.
Pillow blocks.

Pimento.
Pincers.
Pine tar.
Pipe joint compound.
Pipe (galvanized).
Pepper.
Pipes (briar).
Pitch (brewer's).
Plated ware.
Plating outfit.
Pliers.
Plows.
Powder (tooth, talcum).
Powder, rhubarb.
Precision tools (hand).
Printing machinery.
Printing presses.
Priming cocks for spark
plugs.
Pulley blocks.
Pulleys (steel).
Pump jacks.
Pyrometer.
Radiators.
Rail (steel).
Railroad cars.
Railroad picks.
Range boilers.
Ratchets (auto acces-
sories).
Razor blades.
Razor stropers.
Refrigerators.
Rennets.
Resorcine.
Rifles, small air rifles
only.
Rivets (iron).
Roofing cement.
Roofing (galvanized iron,
including sheets less
than $\frac{1}{4}$ inch thick.)
Roofing paper.
Roots and barks.
Rosettes (electrical).
Rubber.
Rubber cement.
Rulers.
Salad dressing (bottled).
Salicylic acid.
Saccharine.
Salol.
Sal soda.
Salt, table.
Sanitary aprons.
Sal ammoniac.
Sapoline enamel.
Soda salicylate.
Sauce (bottled).
Sodium hyposulphite.
Savings banks (small
steel).
Scythestones.
Saw blades.
Scouring powder.

Screws.	Steel bars, except tool steel, high speed steel, or alloy steel.	Track bolts.
Screw caps.	Steel belt laces.	Tractors, farming.
Screw drivers.	Steel (cold rolled).	Trailers (motor).
Senega root.	Steel cabinets.	Trucks.
Service tables.	Steel forgings.	Tufted seats.
Sewing machines.	Steel grease cups.	Turnbuckles (except for aircraft).
Shading mediums.	Steel hanger frames and bearings.	Twine (cotton).
Shears, hand.	Steel hoists.	Typecases (printer).
Sheets (iron or steel under $\frac{1}{4}$ inch thick).	Steel molding.	Typewriters.
Shellac.	Swansdown.	Typewriter parts.
Shoe buttons.	Swings.	Umbrella ribs and tubes.
Shoe lining (if not leather).	Steel padlocks.	Ultramarine blue.
Shoes (horse).	Steel pipe.	Vacuum bottles.
Shovel.	Steel plates or sheets under $\frac{1}{4}$ inch thick.	Vacuum cleaners.
Silica dish.	Steel pulleys.	Valves.
Silicate of soda.	Steel rails.	Valve gauges, gate valves, valve wheels.
Silic.	Steel sash.	Vanillin.
Silverware.	Steel shaft.	Vegetable extract.
Silverplated ware.	Steel spring cotters.	Vegetables (canned).
Slates.	Steel tires for locomotives.	Veneer board.
Slate pencils.	Steel wire.	Vises.
Slot machines.	Strap iron.	Vulcanizers and parts.
Soapstone slabs.	Steel wire cloth.	Wagon trailers.
Soap-tree bark.	Steel wheel push cars.	Wahoo bark root.
Soda ash.	Strontium bromide.	Water meter.
Soda-fountain fixtures.	Strontium carbonate.	Water heaters.
Sodium fluoride.	Sulphate of quinine.	Waterproofing (if not wool).
Speedometers.	Tannic acid.	Water gates.
Spark plugs.	Taps and dies (if for hand use).	Waterproofing solution.
Splice bars.	Taploca.	Wax, also floor wax.
Spokes.	Tar and tar oil.	Wheelbarrows.
Sprayers.	Tartaric acid.	Wheel hubs.
Sprockets.	Tea.	Wheels, car.
Staples.	Tennis rackets.	Wire, fencing, plain, cloth, galvanized, netting.
Starch (corn, as corn flour).	Thermometers.	Wire stitchers.
Steam traps.	Tire rims.	Witch hazel bark.
Steam locomotives.	Toasters.	Window, holland.
Sterilizers.	Tobacco.	Wood type.
Stitching machine wire.	Toilet preparations.	Wrenches.
Stocks and dies.	Tools:	Yeast.
Stone filters.	Carpenter's, shoe-maker's, steam-fitter's.	Yellow phosphorous.
Strap iron.	Tooth powder.	Zinc oxide.
Surgical instruments.	Toys.	Zinc, white in oil.
Syringes.		X-ray apparatus.
Stoves.		Xylidine.
Steel anvils.		
Steel balls.		

WAGE INCREASES ORDERED IN JAPAN.

[Consul General George H. Selmore, Yokohama, Aug. 25.]

The Far East Commercial Supplement states that the Railway Board has decided to raise the wage standard. Officials receiving less than 40 yen (\$19.94) per month are to have a 2-yen (\$1) increase, and those who are paid per diem are to get 6 sen (3 cents) more each working day. "Two yen a month seems to be a small sum, but it means a great deal to this class of workers. All private establishments will probably follow suit," the newspaper states.

FEATURES OF KOBE'S PEARL-BUTTON INDUSTRY.

[Vice Consul E. H. Dooman, Kobe, Japan, Sept. 5.]

The wages that are paid in Kobe's pearl-button industry were discussed in **COMMERCE REPORTS** for May 16, 1917. Only takase and sazae shells, however, are used to any extent in this immediate vicinity. Japanese and Chinese dobu are cut in the neighborhood of Kyoto, Nara, in the outlying villages of Osaka Prefecture, and in the island of Awaji. Aside from the fact that these shells can be worked more easily than takase and sazae shells, workmen in the country districts are satisfied with smaller wages, on account of the lower cost of living. The local family system also tends to keep these workmen from leaving for the larger cities, where higher wages are obtainable. Wages per 1,000 buttons in sen (1 sen=\$0.00398) are as follows:

Shells.	Line.									
	14	16	18	20	22	24	26	28	30	32
TAKASE SHELL.										
Cutting.....	Sen. 0.25	Sen. 0.25	Sen. 0.25	Sen. 0.28	Sen. 0.30	Sen. 0.35	Sen. 0.40	Sen. 0.48	Sen. 0.60	Sen. 0.70
Facing.....	.30	.30	.40	.45	.55	.75	.90	1.20	1.50	1.70
Drilling.....	.08	.08	.09	.10	.11	.13	.16	.18	.20	.25
Grinding.....	.67	.67	.67	.69	.10	.10	.13	.15	.17	.19
Polishing.....	.02	.02	.02	.02	.02	.02	.03	.03	.03	.05
SAZAE SHELL.										
Cutting (top.....	.12	.12	.12	.16	.16	.16	.16			
(side.....	.10	.10	.10	.14	.14	.14	.14			
Facing.....	.08	.08	.08	.11	.11	.11	.11			
Drilling.....	.04	.04	.04	.05	.05	.05	.05			
Grinding.....	.06	.06	.06	.08	.08	.10	.10			
Polishing.....	.02	.02	.02	.02	.02	.02	.02			
CHINESE DOBU.										
Cutting.....	.25	.25	.27	.28	.35	.40	.45			
Facing.....	.25	.25	.25	.28	.31	.36	.42			
Drilling.....	.07	.07	.09	.11	.13	.17	.19			
Grinding.....	.10	.10	.10	.15	.18	.22	.32			
Polishing.....	.05	.05	.05	.07	.10	.10	.12			
JAPANESE DOBU.										
Cutting.....	.12	.12	.15	.18	.21	.26	.35			
Facing.....	.68	.68	.68	.10	.10	.13	.19			
Drilling.....	.06	.06	.08	.08	.10	.12	.12			
Polishing (not ground).....	.04	.04	.04	.06	.06	.08	.08			

The apparent discrepancy in the costs of grinding and polishing takase and sazae shells, which are harder than Japanese or Chinese dobu, is explained by the fact that manufacturers using the former shells have equipped their factories with machinery capable of putting buttons through these processes more rapidly than the great majority of those factories where only dobu buttons are manufactured.

DEMAND FOR CATALOGUES AT SINGAPORE.

[Cablegram from Consul Harry Campbell, Singapore, Straits Settlements.]

There is a demand in Singapore for complete catalogues from American producers of chemicals and machinery to be used in connection with the rubber industry. Importers here desire that such catalogues should be accompanied by full particulars of the articles offered. Communications may be addressed to the American consulate.

ECONOMIZING FUEL IN PETROGRAD.

[Translation from Bourse Gazette, Aug. 25; transmitted by Commercial Attaché William C. Huntington.]

In view of the serious shortage of hard mineral fuel and wood, municipal works have been forced to curtail their consumption of fuel, with a consequent lowering of production. In order to adjust the various public undertakings to the necessity of lessened fuel consumption, a special committee of the representatives of all the municipal works has been formed, the first object of which is to examine the means by which lower consumption of fuel can be brought about.

Street Car Economies—Electric-Light Regulations.

The committee has found it possible to reduce the running schedule of street cars by one hour and will keep in operation the plan of moderate speed that was recently introduced. Among other things, the experiment of decreased speed has given the following results: An economy of fuel amounting to 18 per cent, 30 per cent fewer cars "laid up," and a decrease in daily expenditures amounting to about 3,000 rubles.

The committee recognizes the necessity of continuing the lighting in the central part of the city, but instead of all the lamps being used, only those at prescribed intervals will be lighted. The committee has decided to set a definite hour later than which current will be sent from the station to houses only at an increased rate, which is high enough to prevent most people from using electric light at this time. It was also decided to give special attention to electric signs in moving-picture houses, theaters, and shop windows, in order to put a complete stop to the use of power for such purposes.

Waterworks—Fuel Regulation in All City Enterprises.

The question was also raised of economizing fuel in the municipal waterworks. It was decided that curtailing the activity of the waterworks, with the consequent lessening of the water supply, would not be advisable, but possible economies were seen in connection with the purification of the water. In the past purification of the water has been accomplished by a double process, filtering and chlorinating, of which the former is the more radical and consumes more fuel. It was decided to use in preference the method of chlorinating.

Aside from these measures, the committee of representatives of municipal works formed a special commission under the leadership of Prof. Lomshakoff for regulating the use of fuel in all city enterprises. This commission has to work out binding rules for the economic use of fuel in such undertakings. The necessity of such orders is shown by the careless handling by firemen of coal and petroleum. A technical survey of the department activities gave surprising figures. Thus, in one electric-lighting company, the cost of fuel went 17 per cent above the norm, solely on account of the carelessness of the firemen. Similar results were obtained from a number of other undertakings that were investigated.

EXPORTS OF HANKOW PRODUCTS.

[Consul General Edwin S. Cunningham, Hankow, China, Aug. 16.]

A report from this consulate general published in COMMERCE REPORTS for January 9, 1917, suggested the suitability of Hankow for the location of manufacturing plants. It was stated that labor was cheap, that this is the center of many of the raw products of China, that it is at the head of the navigation of the Yang Tze Kiang for ocean-going steamers, and while land is not cheap, there is a reasonable amount available. It is thought that the following list of exports of certain products, that are noncompeting, many of which are allied, might be of interest to American manufacturers and capitalists and would possibly be worth their attention. The following list is compiled from the Chinese Maritime Customs reports with the intention of selecting only such articles as could possibly be handled by the same plant without competition:

Articles.	1915		1916	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
Albumen:				
Dried.....pounds..	2,207,867	\$737,358	2,245,067	\$663,721
Liquid.....do.....	48,933	5,073	867,600	179,795
Bean cake.....do.....	297,652,133	2,172,295	300,067,867	2,706,145
Beans, all kinds.....do.....	190,079,533	1,949,226	211,136,896	2,286,265
Bones.....do.....	11,452,400	69,778	9,351,067	75,000
Chickens, frozen.....number..	785,434	65,680	752,234	60,628
Eggs:				
Fresh.....do.....	16,197,987	53,531	30,721,260	162,300
Frozen.....pounds..	12,347,867	462,716	18,954,909	1,071,000
Egg yolk:				
Dry.....do.....	2,752,267	320,892	3,790,533	880,194
Liquid.....do.....	7,692,800	417,363	4,897,467	340,000
Frozen products:				
Beef.....do.....			2,768,583	155,000
Lard.....do.....	11,200	755	1,141,333	105,088
Pigs.....number..			227	1,044
Porkers.....do.....	4,968	18,485	12,950	98,642
Unclassed.....do.....				2,091
Groundnuts:				
Shells.....do.....	3,266,633	38,774	351,067	5,066
Kernel.....do.....	108,216,800	2,241,785	39,730,400	1,115,604
Hides:				
Ass.....do.....	154,123	27,564	113,467	27,762
Buffalo.....do.....	3,063,467	265,122	3,696,039	305,000
Cow.....do.....	30,924,400	6,416,236	26,635,200	7,284,766
Intestines, pig.....do.....	125,200	24,526	105,467	32,214
Oils:				
Bean.....pounds..	13,764,667	482,694	20,152,133	976,463
Nut and wood.....do.....	89,004,800	3,693,227	94,832,800	4,547,600
Rape seed.....do.....	5,769,333	207,427	2,238,983	104,452
Sesamum seed.....do.....	1,442,466	48,123	3,071,867	145,003
Skins:				
Kid and goat.....number..	1,850,080	761,360	3,132,132	1,741,000
Lamb and sheep.....do.....	189,475	253,604	198,627	244,215
Tallow:				
Animal.....pounds..	11,265,333	238,627	15,314,133	1,214,000
Vegetable.....do.....	25,618,933	1,463,312	44,681,460	3,235,007
Wool, sheep.....do.....	1,104,267	51,143	1,948,993	127,617

Game does not appear in the list of articles exported from Hankow, although it is thought that if it is not now an important item for cold storage, it could be made such. Teal, duck, goose, and pheasant are abundant in the season, while venison and hare are procurable. A firm in this consular district preserves these as roast game and tins them for local or other consumption. It is stated that this is found to be a profitable business. These and

other things could be taken into consideration with the foregoing list, which is thought to contain only articles which would assist to build up a plant such as a cold-storage firm would be interested in. Then it should be borne in mind that during certain months these items could be exported in cold storage from Hankow by ocean-going vessels.

[A report entitled "Hankow as a Manufacturing Center" was published in **COMMERCE REPORTS** for Jan. 9, 1917.]

CANADIAN BANK CLEARINGS.

[Vice Consul R. E. Chandler, Montreal, Quebec, Sept. 26.]

The following statement of bank clearings at leading centers maintaining clearing houses in Canada was compiled by the secretary of the Canadian Bankers' Association:

City.	1914	1916	1917 to Aug. 31.
London.....	\$38,397,443	\$38,922,518	\$46,662,255
Montreal.....	28,669,309	34,243,297	26,851,137
Calgary.....	157,398,683	223,097,671	200,598,975
Edmonton.....	39,180,558	114,315,961	86,082,142
Port William.....	100,280,103	27,472,169	20,158,989
Halifax.....	148,684,586	125,997,881	92,429,961
Hamilton.....	21,217,849	209,811,087	157,824,034
Lethbridge.....	88,024,236	31,648,551	26,554,669
London.....	19,798,982	100,630,569	73,909,251
Medicine Hat.....	2,631,354,333	21,670,302	18,271,957
Montreal.....	45,846,371	3,722,619,663	2,754,788,432
Moore Jaw.....	19,284,654	52,971,432	36,706,617
New Westminster.....	263,662,579	13,878,008	10,466,835
Ottawa.....	11,238,736	261,049,599	191,811,143
Peterboro.....	185,873,241	28,675,626	20,856,049
Quebec.....	98,285,535	192,183,703	139,662,179
Saginas.....	73,250,921	124,349,591	94,706,843
St. John.....	121,063,272	90,946,795	70,929,180
Saskatoon.....	59,314,911	68,316,181	51,615,592
Toronto.....	2,013,155,664	48,316,181	1,993,650,667
Vancouver.....	420,951,718	321,588,718	253,735,931
Victoria.....	121,063,272	80,311,121	54,017,694
Winnipeg.....	1,370,160,906	2,011,795,257	1,550,557,635
Yukon, Canr.....		20,201,665	19,657,694
Sherbrooke.....		24,378,900	22,364,314

AUSTRALIAN AUTHORIZATION FOR UNITED STATES IMPORTS.

According to a communication just received by the Bureau from Mr. Ernest Hall, official representative of the Australian Department of Trade and Customs in New York, confectionery and certain parts for motor cars may be imported into Australia from the United States under certain conditions in derogation of the recent import prohibitions announced in **COMMERCE REPORTS** for August 14 and 15. The particulars are as follows: Confectionery may be imported from the United States if ordered prior to the date of the original import prohibition, August 10, 1917, and imported before January 1, 1918; steel panels without woodwork for motor bodies and the following parts of motor cars will be admitted until further notice: Cowl dashes with instrument board, footboards, mud guards, wind shields, and hoods (tops).

[Reference to the import prohibitions is made in an article on Australian tariff changes in **COMMERCE REPORTS** for Oct. 1.]

DEVELOPMENT OF THE SOUTH MANCHURIAN RAILWAY.

[Commercial Agent A. W. Ferrin.]

By a stroke of the pen on August 1, 1917, the South Manchurian Railway more than doubled its operated mileage and became de jure what it had long been de facto, one of the great railway systems of the world. On that day was signed the agreement that placed the 1,000 miles of railways in Korea under the management of the South Manchurian, giving the latter a through line under its own management from Fusan, the Korean port nearest Japan, to Changchun (Kwanchengtze), Manchuria, where connection with the Russian railway system to Harbin and thence to Petrograd is effected. To one who is familiar with the geography of Korea and Manchuria the significance of this far eastern railway merger is obvious.

Under this plan, all the main points of which took effect August 1, the direction of the South Manchurian Railway (including the Korean lines), the Japanese gendarmerie in southern Manchuria, and the Japanese consular service in that Province are intrusted to the governor of the Japanese Leased Territory.

Colonization and Banking Activities.

The governor general commented on the drawing together of the Government of Chosen (Korea) and that of the Leased Territory through the Chosen railways, stating that the activities of the Oriental Colonization Co. and the Bank of Chosen in Manchuria "will also afford fresh opportunities to bring South Manchuria and Chosen to a better mutual understanding."

The Oriental Colonization Co., which was organized for the development of Korea, has not yet done much in Manchuria, but the Bank of Chosen has already established 10 branches there, and is empowered to issue circulating notes for Manchurian use. One might do considerable traveling in southern Manchuria without discovering that there was any kind of money except Bank of Chosen notes, while a very important part of the discount business in cities along the railway line is done by the branches of this bank. The South Manchurian Railway, however, is the most evident, and probably the most effective factor in the Japanese economic development in Manchuria.

The South Manchurian Railway was originally a part of the Chinese Eastern, built by Russia to connect the Trans-Siberian line with the mild-temperature ports of Dalny (Dairen) and Port Arthur. By article 6 of the treaty of peace which concluded the Russo-Japanese War, the Russian main line from Changchun to Dalny, with all properties, including coal mines, formerly owned by Russia, passed into the hands of the Japanese Government in September, 1905. Early in the following year the South Manchurian Railway Co. was organized, with an authorized capital of 200,000,000 yen (about \$100,000,000) divided into 1,000,000 shares.

Japanese Government Guarantees Dividend.

The Japanese Government turned over to the new company all the acquired railway property in Manchuria, at a valuation of 100,000,000 yen, for which it took 500,000 shares, or half the authorized capital, of the South Manchurian Railway in payment. The other 500,000

shares were allocated to the public, the Japanese Government guaranteeing an annual dividend of 6 per cent. The first issue of public shares was limited to 100,000, and was oversubscribed 1,066 times. Further issues were made from time to time as the company needed money for extension work, and 300,000 shares are now in the hands of the public. The shareholders are receiving not only the guaranteed dividend of 6 per cent per annum, but also a supplementary dividend of 2 per cent. Dividends to the Government on its 500,000 shares are limited to 5 per cent per annum.

Besides selling stock to obtain money for the reconstruction and development of the system, the company at various times has issued and sold debentures, principal and interest guaranteed by the Japanese Government, all of which are floated in London, as follows:

First issue, £4,000,000 (\$19,466,000), dated July 19, 1907, redeemable within 25 years; interest 5 per cent.

Second issue, £2,000,000 (\$9,733,000), dated June 1, 1908, redeemable within three years; interest 5 per cent.

Third issue, £2,000,000, dated December 16, 1908, redeemable July 23, 1932; interest 5 per cent.

Fourth issue, £6,000,000 (\$29,199,000), dated January 1, 1911, and repayable January 1, 1936; interest $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

From the proceeds of the fourth issue the notes issued in June, 1908, were paid off. The outstanding debentures on March 31, 1917, therefore, were equally divided between 5 and $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent issues, with £6,000,000 of each. At par of exchange the total is equal to 117,156,000 gold yen.

The railways acquired by the Government from Russia and turned over to the South Manchurian Railway Co. were: Main line, Changchun to Dairen, 437 $\frac{1}{2}$ miles; Port Arthur branch line, 28.8 miles; Laushutun branch line, 3.6 miles; Yingkou branch line, 13.4 miles; Yentai branch line, 9.7 miles; Fushun branch line, 38.9 miles; Mukden-Antung line, 189 miles.

Progress on Reconstruction of Lines.

The gauge of these lines, except the Mukden-Antung, was 3 feet 6 inches. The Mukden-Antung line was a light railway of only 2 feet 6 inches in gauge.

Immediately after beginning operations, the South Manchurian Railway Co. started on the reconstruction of the lines which were 3 feet 6 inches to the standard gauge of 4 feet 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches, and by June 1, 1908, the entire main line and the Fushun and Yingkou branches had been rebuilt. The main line had also been double-tracked between Dairen and Suchiatun, 238 $\frac{1}{2}$ miles. Work on the reconstruction of the Mukden-Antung light railway was then begun, and by November, 1911, this line had also been entirely reconstructed to standard gauge with heavy rails. In the meantime the short lines in Manchuria had been rebuilt.

The improvement of the Mukden-Antung line made possible the running of through passenger trains from the Chosen (Korea) Railways to Changchun, and such trains were run three times a week up to the beginning of the European war, when the service was curtailed to one through express a week from Fusan to Changchun, connecting with the Trans-Siberian Railway over the Chinese Eastern from Changchun to Harbin. Two trains a day, however, make close con-

nections at Antung-Shingishu, on the Korean border, with South Manchurian trains connecting with the Chinese Eastern at Changchun. These same trains are also met at Fusan by steamers from Shimonoseki which connect there with the two trains de luxe on the Imperial Japanese Railways, so that it is possible to go through with little loss of time for changes from Tokio to Harbin every day in the week. Now that the management of the Chosen Railways has been intrusted to the South Manchurian, it is probable that through trains will be run daily from Fusan to Changchun without change of cars.

Additional Service by Steamers.

In addition to the extension of its passenger service to Japan through Korea, the South Manchurian has also, by means of steamers owned or chartered, opened a twice-a-week service from Dairen to Shanghai, one of these ships now stopping each way at Tsingtau, the port in the Shantung Peninsula that was captured from Germany, at the beginning of the war. The company also runs boats to Chefoo and other ports on the Gulf of Pechili.

In connection with the passenger service large European-style hotels are maintained by the company at Changchun, Mukden, and Dairen. These, with the Chosen Railway hotels at Fusan, Seoul, and Shingishu, will now be put under one manager, appointed by the South Manchurian.

The largest element in the growing freight traffic of the South Manchurian is the soy bean, which is transported from northern Manchuria to Dairen, where 60 bean-oil mills produce the oil, which is mainly exported to America, and bean cake, which is the great Far Eastern fertilizer. Large harbor works which the Russians began have been about completed by the Japanese, and Dairen is becoming a very important port. Direct service with America is now being talked of, to be composed of special bean-oil ships. From Mukden southward corn is the chief Manchurian product, the country traversed by this part of the railway bearing a very close resemblance to the corn-growing States of America. Traffic in general merchandise is, of course, rapidly increasing as Manchuria develops.

Locomotives, cars, and their equipment taken from the Russians became obsolete for Manchuria as soon as the railway gauge was changed and were sent to Japan to be used on the narrow-gauge lines there. New equipment was bought in America and Europe, but in decreasing quantities as the railway's own shops at Dairen grew. In 1908 the company began the construction of a new and modern car and engine manufactory at Shakako, a suburb of Dairen, and this plant, completed in August, 1911, now supplies practically all the needs of the company. The Shakako establishment also makes modern trolley cars for the city of Dairen, and it is expected that it will develop an export business in steam and electric railway equipment. The trolley service in Dairen is part of the South Manchurian Railway, and so are the gas works. The company has also established electric works at Mukden, Changchun, and Antung.

Railway Mines Its Own Coal.

The South Manchurian mines its own coal, mainly at Fusan, which is 22 miles east of Mukden. The Fusan mines, which were taken from the Russians, are said to contain 800,000,000 tons of very

good coal, which the South Manchurian not only uses itself, but also exports from Port Arthur, and sells locally to bean-oil mills and other factories in Manchuria. It has, besides, mines at Yentai, 10 miles off the main line south of Mukden.

Under agreements with China which were inherited from Russia, and others which have since been made by Japan, the railway line is policed by Japan, and large sections of all the towns along the lines are conceded to the South Manchurian Railway, which is developing them into purely Japanese cities, but with modern improvements which are not possible in the older congested cities of Japan. The Japanese seem to have used the plans of the Russians at Dalny as models. They have made the city a very beautiful place, carrying out the Russian design, and are doing similar things at Mukden and 21 other cities in Manchuria outside the Leased Territory. The control of these cities will henceforth be vested in the Government General of the Leased Territory, and the differentiation of Manchuria proper, at least along the railway, from the Leased Territory on the peninsula will be less and less as time goes by.

Large Earnings Since Outbreak of War.

The earnings of the South Manchurian Railway, which have steadily grown since its organization, have been exceptionally large since the outbreak of the European war, partly because of increased traffic with Russia, and partly because of the lessened competition of the Chinese Government lines. Gross earnings for the year ended March 31, 1917, were 52,700,453 yen. After the payment of all expenses and of 5,862,954 yen interest on debentures and the writing off of the year's share of the discount on the debentures, 1,360,186 yen, the company had a balance of 10,107,607 yen, covering the dividend to the Government at the rate of 5 per cent, and to other shareholders at the rate of 8 per cent, very handsomely, and enabling it to increase the special reserve to 15,900,000 yen. The reserve required by law is 2,272,332 yen.

The earnings of the Chosen Railway will be kept separate from those of the South Manchurian, and will be handled as follows: Until the profit reaches 6 per cent per annum it all goes to the Government General of Chosen. When it exceeds 6 per cent the excess will be divided evenly between the Government General of Chosen and the South Manchurian Railway Co.

It is expected that the new arrangement will mean much larger earnings for the Chosen Railways, which consist of 1,000 miles of line, the "main stem" from Fusan to Shingishu, on the Manchurian border, with important branches to Gensan, in northeastern Chosen, to Kunsan and Mokpo, on the southwestern coast, and to the busy ports of Chemulpo, Chinnampo, and Masan.

[A book containing nearly 200 halftones, presenting scenes on the South Manchurian Railway; and maps of the railway and its connections, and of Korea, which accompanied this report, may be inspected at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district offices. Refer to file No. 1275. Articles on the railways of Manchuria were published in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for Dec. 5, 1916, Mar. 2 and 27, 1917. Features of the Chinese Eastern Railway were described in the issues of Dec. 23, 1916, and Jan. 10, 1917. A pamphlet issued by the South Manchurian Railway, containing descriptions of its railway shops at Shakako, Dairen, with illustrations, and specifications and cuts of engines and cars built there has already been offered by *COMMERCE REPORTS*. It may be inspected by referring to file No. 86996.]

SEA-BORNE TRADE OF BRITISH INDIA.

According to preliminary figures published by the Indian Department of Statistics, the sea-borne commerce of British India (exclusive of Government stores and treasure) for the three months ended June 30, 1917, reached a value of \$303,149,088, contrasted with \$300,345,635 in the corresponding quarter of 1916 and \$259,717,064 in April-June, 1915. These totals are made up of imports, exports, and reexports of private merchandise and the movement of private treasure in the following amounts:

Three months ended June 30—	Merchandise.				Treasure.	
	Imports.	Exports (foreign).	Exports (Indian).	Exports (total).	Imports.	Exports.
1915.....	\$95,036,661	\$3,140,014	\$147,301,111	\$150,441,155	\$13,651,296	\$587,922
1916.....	113,477,609	4,734,207	171,431,925	176,166,132	8,351,110	2,359,884
1917.....	101,626,447	6,303,117	179,588,673	185,891,790	14,943,923	686,923

On merchandise account British India had a favorable balance of trade in April-June, 1917, of \$84,265,343, as compared with one of \$62,688,323 in the like period of 1916 and one of \$55,404,494 in the corresponding quarter of 1915.

AMERICAN COTTON GINNED.

A preliminary report from the United States Bureau of the Census shows that the number of bales of cotton ginned from the growth of 1917 prior to September 25, counting round as half bales, was 2,498,381, compared with 4,081,989 bales to the corresponding date in 1916, and 2,903,829 bales in 1915.

The statistics in this report include 60,904 round bales for 1917, 84,855 for 1916, and 32,412 for 1915. The number of sea-island bales included is 18,731 for 1917; 31,261 for 1916, and 19,091 for 1915.

The report for 1917 is subject to slight corrections when checked against the individual returns of the ginneries being transmitted by mail. The corrected statistics of the quantity of cotton ginned this season prior to September 1 are 615,597 bales.

AN AMERICAN BANK FOR CARACAS.

[Consul Homer Brett, La Guaira, Venezuela, Sept. 17.]

A representative of a New York bank is now in Caracas making arrangements for the opening of a branch of that institution in that city. This will undoubtedly be followed by an extension throughout the country. There is a possibility that the bank will erect large warehouses in La Guaira to be operated somewhat in the manner of bonded warehouses in the United States. Such a step would open up a large field for banking business in which it has hitherto been impossible to operate, and will certainly prove not only profitable to the bank but of great assistance to the commerce of the country.

BRAZILIAN OFFERS SUPPLY OF WOLFRAMITE.

[Consul General Alfred L. Moreau Gottschalk, Rio de Janeiro, Aug. 18.]

An engineer in the Brazilian Army states that he owns certain property containing wolframite in the State of Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil. This mine, he says, ranges from 8 to 9 meters in depth and covers 8,000 hectares of land. It is said to have been in operation since 1880. Such operation, however, has been limited and only one-fifth of the mine has been worked. The property is 16 kilometers from the city of Lavras in the State of Rio Grande do Sul, and on account of the lack of railway facilities the ore has to be hauled by cart from the mine to Lavras, whence it is shipped to Porto Alegre, an important port in that State.

The man who furnished this information states that his company up to the outbreak of the present war had made regular shipments to Germany, the Krupp works having contracted for the entire output of the mine. In the years immediately preceding the war exports from this mine are said to have averaged more than 1,000 tons per year. The ore, which is said upon analysis to have shown 60 per cent wolframite, was sold at about \$1.80 United States currency per kilo (2.2 pounds) delivered at Porto Alegre, Brazil. It is claimed that there is a stock of 7 tons on hand, and that the mine could produce from 2 to 3 tons daily.

[The name and address of the mine owner mentioned may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 93247.]

STOCK EXCHANGES IN VENEZUELA.

A recent Venezuelan decree in the Gaceta Oficial provides for the creation of stock exchanges in all of the commercial centers of Venezuela where chambers of commerce are now located. The stock exchanges will be governed according to the provisions of the commercial code. Every company with circulating bonds must register in the exchange office, paying a registry fee of one-fifth per mille on its subscribed capital. In case its capital is increased the fees will be increased proportionately. Companies must register within 90 days after establishment of the stock exchange under penalty of paying double fees.

International Reply Coupons in the Dominican Republic.

Consul Arthur McLean, of Puerto Plata, calls attention to the fact that international reply coupons can not be exchanged for postage stamps in the Dominican Republic.

OFFICES OF THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE.**DISTRICT OFFICES.**

NEW YORK: 734 Customhouse.
BOSTON: 1901 Customhouse.
CHICAGO: 504 Federal Building.
ST. LOUIS: 402 Third National Bank Building.
NEW ORLEANS: 1020 Hibernia Bank Building.
SAN FRANCISCO: 307 Customhouse.
SEATTLE: 849 Henry Building.

COOPERATIVE OFFICES.

CLEVELAND: Chamber of Commerce.
CINCINNATI: Chamber of Commerce.
CINCINNATI: General Freight Agent, Southern Railway, 96 Ingalls Building.
LOS ANGELES: Chamber of Commerce.
PHILADELPHIA: Chamber of Commerce.
CHATTANOOGA: South American Agent, Southern Railway System.
PORTLAND, OREG.: Chamber of Commerce.
DAYTON: Greater Dayton Association.

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the Bureau and its district and cooperative offices. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and state opportunity number. The Bureau does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases. Symbols: * Reported by American consular officers; † Reported by commercial attachés and commercial agents; ‡ Direct inquiries received by the Bureau.

In considering the following "opportunities" regard should be had to the regulations requiring export licenses for certain articles.

Biscuits.....	25515	Motorcycles.....	25516
Blankets.....	25521	Oil seeds.....	25512
Dolls.....	25514	Pipes and tubing.....	25518
Games.....	25514	Port improvements.....	25517
Hats.....	25521	Stationery.....	25513, 25522
Hosiery.....	25521	Suspenders.....	25521
Machinery.....	25519	Toys.....	25514
Malt.....	25520	Undershirts.....	25521

25512.*—A firm in Spain desires to purchase copra, peanuts, and other oil seeds for the manufacture of oil. It also wishes to secure an agency for the sale of these products. Correspondence should be in French or Spanish. References.

25513.*—A man in Portugal wishes to purchase and secure an agency for the sale of stationery. Quotations should be made f. o. b. American port. Payment will be made by opening credit in New York. Correspondence should be in French. References.

25514.*—A merchant in Italy is in the market for all kinds of dolls, games, and toys, especially mechanical. Catalogues and samples should be submitted wherever possible. Correspondence should be in French or Italian. Reference.

25515.*—A company in England wishes to buy biscuits in 1, 2, and 4 pound tins, one case containing one or two dozen tins. Quotations should be made f. o. b. New York. Payment will be made through bank in the United States. References.

25516.*—A man in Portugal wishes to purchase motorcycles. He also desires to entertain an agency proposition. Quotations should be made f. o. b. American port. Credit will be opened in New York for payment. Correspondence should be in French. References.

25517.*—A foreign government has issued a decree calling for tenders for the improvement of the port in an important city. Tenders will be received up to 3 p. m. on March 30, 1918. Address of officer from whom details of work and conditions of contract may be obtained may be had on application to the Bureau or its district offices.

25518.*—A firm in Italy is in the market for large quantities of pipes and tubing. Correspondence should be in French or Italian. Reference.

25519.*—A man in Australia who owns a mine with 100,000 tons of iron pyrites ore developed, containing an average of 45 per cent sulphur, desires to be placed in communication with manufacturers and exporters of machinery for extracting sulphur. He also wishes to receive all information possible in regard to process of extraction of sulphur, cost of plant, etc.

25520.*—A company in Portugal desires to secure an agency for the sale of malt for breweries. Quotations may be made f. o. b. New York. Confirmed credit will be opened by telegram. Correspondence should be in French. Reference.

25521.*—A firm in British East Africa is in the market for cashmere, worsted, and medium cotton hosiery; white, colored, plain and fancy silk hosiery; cheap cotton undershirts with no sleeves; plain white and colored cotton blankets with and without border; suspenders; and felt hats. Quotations should be made in English sterling. Payment will be made by sight draft or in 60 days, if possible. Goods should be packed in extra strong cases with waterproof linings. References.

25522.*—An agency is desired by a commission merchant in Spain for the sale of stationery supplies, writing materials, paper, ink, etc. Correspondence should be in Spanish. References.

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TAMPICO OIL REPORT FOR JULY AND AUGUST.

[Consul Claude I. Dawson, Tampico, Mexico, Sept. 22.]

Declared exports of crude oil and petroleum products from the Tampico district to the United States in July amounted to 3,195,716 barrels and in August to 2,757,652 barrels. The movement from Tampico was 2,449,949 and 2,044,194 barrels, respectively; and from Tuxpam, 745,767 and 713,458 barrels, respectively. Shipments to points other than the United States were reported as 1,107,784 barrels in July and 930,473 barrels in August. The gross shipments therefore reached 4,303,500 barrels in July and 3,688,125 barrels in August.

The Tampico shipments included refined products as follows: Reduced crude, 854,000 barrels in July and 539,000 barrels in August; distillate, 147,000 barrels in July and 120,000 barrels in August; topped crude, none in July and 21,000 barrels in August. The Tuxpam shipments include only crude oil, the topping plants at that port not being ready for operation.

REBUILDING GERMAN FOREIGN TRADE.

[Extract from article in the Hamburger Neueste Nachrichten of Aug. 8.]

The German Economical Society for South and Central America has just held a meeting in Hamburg to discuss ways and means for rebuilding Germany's foreign trade quickly after the war is over. It was the opinion of the society that an export bank should be established immediately, to be ready to take the field when the opportunity arrives. Such a bank would not compete with already existing banks, but would simply assist them. With the aid of this bank Germany would be in a better position to sell abroad in large quantities such articles as chemicals and potash, which the entire world needs.

It was a question for discussion whether the present system of centralized imports should be continued. Much was said against it.

for a system of free import trade was said to offer greater inducements for the display of private initiative. The present Central Purchasing Bureau (Zentral Einkaufs-gesellschaft) is not to be left uncriticized.

There was a proposal for the establishment of a price-control office, whose duty it would be to fix the prices which might be paid for different import articles.

Much was said in favor of a Government Economic Bureau, which should be presided over by representatives of shipping, manufacturing, and trade. One of the most applauded suggestions was that of instituting a Government Bureau of Foreign Trade, which might become a center of trade information.

NEW GERMAN INDUSTRIAL DISCOVERIES AND PROCESSES.

[British (Government) Board of Trade Journal, Sept. 13.]

The Neue Zürcher Zeitung recently published a review of German activities in technical matters in the field of war economics in which it is stated that systematic investigations into the properties of pit coal have been carried on by the Kaiser Wilhelm Institute für Kohlenforschung and have yielded important industrial results. The treatment of coal with liquid sulphurous acid at ordinary temperatures has produced viscous, golden-yellow mineral oils, the amount produced being 5 kilos per metric ton [11 pounds per ton of 2,204.6 pounds]. A process has also been elaborated by which through heating naphthalene under pressure, in the presence of aluminium chloride, an oil is produced that can be used for illuminating purposes in the same manner as petroleum. Finally, by treating with ozone, it has been found possible to alter the carbon compounds in coal to compounds soluble in water, the chemical importance of which can not at present be estimated.

The utilization of lignite has been greatly extended. In the first place it is being used extensively as a fuel in the industrial establishments which have recently sprung up in the Central German lignite fields, especially in the neighborhood of Bitterfeld and Halle, where the German air-nitrate factories are situated. A process has been discovered by which nearly twice the usual amount of ozokerite can be obtained from lignite, and the gas is being more extensively used for heating and smelting.

In the field of the exploitation of nitrates directly from air a new process has been discovered which works with quadruple air velocity through the reaction space and produces a result about 80 per cent higher than could be obtained before.

Metallurgy, Rubber, and Textiles.

In the metal industry further progress has been made with the production of substitutes for copper, brass, and bronze, especial mention being made of the different zinc and lead alloys and of the increasing importance of aluminum.

Recently there have been new developments in ore smelting. With copper schists the metallurgical possibility of going as low as 0.7 per cent has been shown, whereas formerly the average lower limit was 2.5 per cent. Operations have been commenced upon large deposits of sandstone containing white lead. Successful experiments

have been made in obtaining aluminum from clay, which will, it is claimed, make Germany independent of foreign bauxite in future. With nickel ores the workable limit has been reduced from 2.5 to 1.5 per cent. A process has also been discovered for obtaining nickel and cobalt from pit waters containing these substances.

In the German rubber industry the situation is said to have been eased by the progress made in rubber regeneration and by the substitution of mechanical spring wheels for pneumatic tires. The idea of exploiting German caoutchouc plants has been given up.

Nettles have become more and more important as a source of fiber. The uses to which paper textiles are put are also constantly increasing, and qualities that are durable and will even stand washing are being produced.

JUTE WEAVING IN BRAZIL.

[Consul General Alfred Moreau Gottschalk, Rio de Janeiro, Aug. 11.]

Brazil, which moves annually the greatest coffee crop in the world, has naturally developed an important industry in the weaving of jute bagging. The entire coffee export of Brazil and many other products to-day leave the country in bags of domestic manufacture. The raw material, however, is not grown in the country, although numerous experiments are being made in that direction.

Brazil imports its jute from the Ganges region of British India through Calcutta or Scotch markets. Since the beginning of the European war a great many people here have been fearing a shortage of supplies and have turned their attention to finding a suitable substitute for jute. It can not be said that any appreciable results have been attained thus far in this direction, although there is every reason to hope that a country as rich in all sorts of vegetable fibers as is Brazil may ultimately discover something that will adequately take the place of the Indian product. [See COMMERCE REPORTS for Sept. 12, 1917; also the issue for Sept. 20, 1916.]

The State of São Paulo, which is the center of the coffee production, has naturally been the chief seat of the jute-weaving industry. One factory there, the Companhia Nacional de Tecidos de Jute, alone has over 1,600 looms working, with nearly 17,000 spindles. The jute factories of the country, which are 16 in number, are thus distributed:

State.	Factories	Looms.	State.	Factories.	Looms.
Bahia.....	1	115	Pernambuco.....	2	150
Federal District.....	2	371	Rio de Janeiro.....	1	50
Maranhão.....	2	150	Rio Grande do Sul.....	1	110
Minas Geraes.....	1	34	São Paulo.....	4	2,174
Para.....	1	50	Paraná.....	1	66

Desiring Market for Sandalwood and Other Essential Oils.

A firm in British India has requested an American consular officer to put it in touch with American firms who are in a position to import sandalwood and other essential oils. The name of the firm can be obtained at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district or cooperative offices by referring to file No. 93173.

JAPAN UTILIZES OLD AMERICAN OIL CANS.

The present obligation to apply for licenses to export all products containing tin has brought to light a very interesting testimonial to the ingenuity of the Japanese. For some time it has been the custom for Japanese merchants to utilize the 5-gallon cans in which American firms send petroleum products to the Far East to ship vegetable oils to this country. At the end of this second journey the cans usually found a resting place in Puget Sound, the vegetable oils being emptied into tank cars for overland transportation.

With the rising prices of tin plate and the difficulty of getting it for other than food-preservation uses Japanese merchants on the West Coast conceived the possibility of putting these cans to work again. A trial lot was purchased, the tops and bottoms were removed, the bodies slit so as to save cargo space, and the lot shipped back to Japan. The cans were sold to manufacturers of toys, export cases (for lining), bottle caps, and dust pans. They were also sold for roofing purposes. The trial having proven successful, it is needless to say that no more of these cans are thrown into Puget Sound.

The question arises, If Japanese manufacturers can utilize these old cans after paying freight across the Pacific, why can not American manufacturers do likewise? The cans may be bought for about 9 cents apiece, or \$72 a ton. They have been sold at \$100 a ton f. o. b. Seattle, while the ultimate consumer in Japan is known to have paid as much as \$150 a ton for the cans delivered at his factory. It is understood that certain California fruit packers have already utilized some of these cans for making tops for fruit baskets. The Department of Commerce would be glad to see their increased domestic utilization for manufacturing purposes, and the Exports Administrative Board will welcome inquiries relative to the possible purchase of quantities of them.

CODFISH AND OIL TRADE OF NORWAY.

[Weekly Bulletin, Canadian Department of Trade and Commerce, Ottawa, Sept. 24.]

The spring cod fishery of the Finmarken coast closed on June 23. The returns for the season are 17,056,550 kilos (calculated at 6,317,240 cods), as against 26,854,600 kilos (9,946,150 cods) in 1916, 43,279,200 kilos (16,020,330 cods) in 1915, 63,612,650 kilos (23,560,240 cods) in 1914, and 93,923,800 kilos (34,787,000 cods) in 1913. The very poor returns this year are caused chiefly by the uncertain conditions, great parts of the fishing districts lying inside of the German "danger zone."

The returns of the cod fisheries and their products up to June 26, 1915, June 25, 1916, and June 23, 1917, respectively, were as follows: Cods, 66,800,000, 51,300,000, and 27,700,000; steamed medicinal oil, 50,918 hectoliters (1 hectoliter=26.4 gallons), 60,068 hectoliters, and 37,129 hectoliters; raw liver for making oil, 8,871 hectoliters (1 hectoliter=90.8 quarts), 5,375 hectoliters, and 6,824 hectoliters. As the fish ruled fat the quantity of oil was comparatively large. In Lofoten 100 liters of liver yielded an average of 51 liters of steamed medicinal oil, as against 49 liters last year. The fish also ruled somewhat larger than last year. The quantity of roe was small.

SUCCESSFUL RADIO SCHOOL UNDER NOVEL CONDITIONS.

A free Government school to train radio operators for the rapidly-growing American merchant marine has been established at Boston through the initiative of Radio Inspector Arthur Batcheller, of that city, with the active assistance of Mr. Walter Butterworth, assistant radio inspector. When Congress made its first appropriation for building merchant vessels Mr. Batcheller, at that time assistant radio inspector at Boston, was quick to realize that a large number of commercial operators would be needed, and in June he suggested to the Commissioner of Navigation the establishment of a free school which, unlike the great school conducted by the Navy Department, would accept only such applicants as would agree to take a position in the merchant marine. The suggestion was approved and Mr. Batcheller was authorized to carry out his plans.

Through the cooperation of the collector of customs permission was obtained to use the office of the radio inspector in the Boston customhouse during the evening for school purposes. Benches and tables were made from second-hand lumber obtained through the assistance of the Customs Service, and camp stools were loaned by the Boston & Gloucester Steamship Co. Through the mayor of Boston the loan of a blackboard was secured from the school department. The Marconi Wireless Telegraph Co. aided the project by supplying a typical radio installation, and the Bureau of Navigation furnished the necessary head telephones, telegraph keys, dry cells, wire, buzzers, etc.

These facilities permitted the instruction of a class of 40 men, and nearly that number are taking advantage of the opportunity. The classes meet three evenings a week and the work is progressing with marked success. The school opened on July 16, and each student will have an opportunity at the end of a six months' course to win a first-grade commercial radio operator's license.

The instruction is under the supervision of Mr. Batcheller, who had previously had four years' experience as a teacher of electricity and radiotelegraphy. The Secretary of Commerce has visited the school and has officially commended Mr. Batcheller and Mr. Butterworth for their helpful and patriotic service. They have had the active assistance of Mr. McCarthy, clerk in the radio inspector's office, and of Mr. E. W. Thompson, chief electrician, radio, United States Navy.

COURT DECISION ON ITALIAN BUILDING TAX.

[Consul General David F. Wilber, Genoa, Aug. 17.]

La Finanza Italiana published at Rome August 4, 1917, contains a decision of the Court of Cassation at Rome in regard to the building tax as follows:

The right which the concessionary of the construction and working of a public aqueduct, for the period during which the concession lasts, has upon the constructions which form the aqueduct itself, is to be considered as analogous to and even more extended than the right of the life renter. Consequently the payment of the ground rent for the buildings, through the income that they produce, must fall upon the concessionary to whom the income belongs, not upon the commune which has made the concession, even when the commune must be recognized as proprietor of the aqueduct.

RELATION OF SOUTH AFRICAN MINES TO AMERICAN TRADE.

[Consul John P. Bray, Johannesburg, July 24.]

The year 1916 was a trying one for the gold-mining industry of the Witwatersrand, although the value of the gold output was the highest in the history of the Transvaal Province. Handicapped as were the mines by the withdrawal of a large body of skilled laborers, by a shortage of native labor at certain periods of the year, and by an increase in wages due to the ever increasing cost of living, yet a far more serious obstacle had to be met in the form of enhanced prices for material, which, combined with unprecedented freight rates and increased gold-realization charges, was a determining factor in the reduction of dividends.

Importance of the Industry.

Although a considerable proportion of the dividends derived from the gold mines is paid to residents of foreign countries, no small amount remains in South Africa, and a large part of the population is directly or indirectly affected economically by mining dividends. In fact, this industry in the Witwatersrand is so closely related to the general commercial and industrial life of British South Africa that its prosperity reacts not only upon the inhabitants of the Transvaal, but also upon the other Provinces. Practically every branch of industrial life in the Transvaal owes its existence in some form or other to mining. It is important to countries from which South Africa imports manufactured products. This is particularly true of the United States, for it has been estimated by reliable American business men in this city that between 70 and 80 per cent of American imports into South Africa are ultimately destined for the Transvaal.

The manufacturing industries at present are developed so slightly that the paramount importance of gold mining is readily to be understood. Its successful and smooth working appears to be a matter of vital concern to the British Empire, as well as to the Rand and the less productive Provinces of South Africa. With a gold output for 1916 valued at \$192,152,293, and a total production since 1884 amounting to \$2,500,935,931, its degree of essentiality to the Union of South Africa in the question of revenue, of affording employment, and as a means of supporting foreign trade can hardly be overestimated.

Reduction in Stocks of Supplies.

There is at present a growing concern among mine operators in regard to the difficulty of obtaining material essential to the uninterrupted working of the mines. Although the cutting off of Germany as a source of supply took place in 1914, the mines were affected to no great extent until 1916, when the large stock of supplies began to be depleted on account of shipping difficulties and the heavy demands on British and American manufacturers. An endeavor is now being made to pool the supplies. This scheme is making some progress, as the result of a circular issued by the Chamber of Commerce and Commercial Exchange calling upon their members to send in stock returns of some 60 essential commodities which they had on hand on June 30, 1917.

The fact that the mine reserves are scarce, and that the chances of replenishment are problematical, has caused extreme price fluctu-

ations in many instances. The great increases in prices probably will have a serious effect upon the dividend returns of certain mines, and especially those that are approaching the margin of production.

The mining industry of the Transvaal may be said at this moment to be more dependent than ever upon the United States as a source of supply, and although American trade with South Africa is somewhat limited in comparison with that of some other countries, yet the basis of our commerce with this country rests entirely upon the mining industry, and the continuity of its operations is a matter of concern to the United States.

THE WOOLEN-GOODS INDUSTRY OF BRAZIL.

[Consul General Alfred L. Moreau Gottschalk, Rio de Janeiro, Aug. 11.]

The domestic manufacture of woolen goods, although it has not reached the development nor the importance of the cotton spinning and weaving industry, is nevertheless a valuable asset to Brazil and has an excellent future. The raw material used is not entirely Brazilian, although the flocks of the southern part of the Republic furnish an excellent wool, which has even in some instances been exported. Woolen yarns are still largely imported, the value of such purchases reaching \$668,120 (U. S. currency) in 1916; in 1915 Brazil's imports of woolen yarns amounted to \$128,490. Raw wool, too, is imported—\$405,694 worth in 1916, as contrasted with \$69,312 worth in 1915. Of recent years there has been a considerable increase in the output of shoddy, i. e., textiles made from old woolen goods shredded and rewoven.

There is a lack of official figures concerning the extent of this industry and the internal revenue derived from it. However, an association known as the Centro Industrial has published certain data as to number of mills, looms, and spindles, and according to these figures there were 35 woolen mills in operation in 1915, thus distributed:

Location.	Mills.	Looms.	Spindles.
Federal District.....	11	497	1,000
State of Minas Geraes.....	1	24	750
State of Rio Grande do Sul.....	7	322	6,800
State of Rio de Janeiro.....	4	144	.....
State of São Paulo.....	12	377	1,566

Some of the above factories, however, are of relatively small importance. The industry is said to have employed 2,751 operatives in 1915.

Mexico Interested in Candelilla-Wax Extraction.

Consul General George A. Chamberlain, of Mexico City, reports renewed interest in Mexico in methods for the extraction of wax from the Candelilla plant (*Pedilanthus pavonis*). The candelilla grows abundantly throughout the northern part of the Republic, and the wax that is obtained from it is frequently used in the preparation of various kinds of leather greases and lubricants and in the manufacture of disks for phonographs.

THE ISLAND OF HAITI-SANTO DOMINGO.

[Consul Arthur McLean, Puerto Plata, Dominican Republic, Aug. 29.]

There seems to be a great deal of confusion with regard to the name and location of the Island of Haiti-Santo Domingo and the Haitian and Dominican Republics. The Island of Haiti-Santo Domingo is situated between Cuba and Porto Rico. It is 60 miles west of Porto Rico, 70 east of Cuba, and 1,250 southeast of the port of New York.

The Island of Haiti-Santo Domingo is, after Cuba, the largest of the West Indies. The total area of the island is 29,525 square miles, of which 10,200, or approximately one-third, are in the western section, or Haiti; 19,325, or the remaining two-thirds, are in the eastern portion, or the Dominican Republic.

Haiti and the Dominican Republic are distinct in nearly every respect. The laws, the people, and their customs are all quite different. French is the language of Haiti, and Spanish of the Dominican Republic.

The population of the entire island is estimated at 2,700,000, of which 2,000,000 are in Haiti, and the remainder in the Dominican Republic.

History of the Island and Its Name.

The aboriginal name of the western section of the island was Haiti, denoting "highlands." While Haiti was merely a local name for the western part of the island, it is frequently and erroneously applied to the entire island. The name given by the aborigines to the eastern end of the island, now occupied by the Dominican Republic, was Quisqueya, meaning "Mother of the Earth."

The island of Haiti-Santo Domingo was discovered by Columbus on December 5, 1492, on his first voyage to the New World, and was named by him "La Isla Espanola" owing to its similarity to certain regions of Spain. Columbus named the capital of the island Santo Domingo, after the founder of the Dominican Order of Friars, in which he was probably influenced by the fact that his father's name also was Domingo.

The city of Santo Domingo soon became of such great importance as the seat of the Government of Spain in America, the residence of the first archbishop and primate of the Indies, the High Court of Justice of the Western World that even in the lifetime of Columbus the name he had given it of "Espanola" fell into disuse and was supplanted by "Santo Domingo," the French giving their spelling of "Saint Domingue" to their section of the island. From the time of Columbus, therefore, the entire island was known by the name of Santo Domingo. When the French were driven out in 1804 their part of the island became a republic and adopted the original Indian name of that section, or Haiti. In 1844 the Dominican Republic was established in the eastern portion of the island.

Confusion of Names.

It is, therefore, incorrect to apply to the entire island the name of Haiti, as that was merely the aboriginal name for the western section (the present Republic). The island should properly be called either Santo Domingo, by which it has been known for the greater part of the four centuries since its discovery, or a combination of the two names, Haiti-Santo Domingo.

Another mistake that is made frequently is to refer to this Republic as Santo Domingo. While the island may be properly called Santo Domingo, the correct name of the country is the Dominican Republic. Santo Domingo is not the name of a country, but of the capital and largest city of the Dominican Republic.

This island is also frequently confused with the island of Dominica. The latter is a small British island in the lesser Antilles, about 350 miles southeast of Porto Rico, between the French islands of Guadeloupe and Martinique. As this island was discovered by Columbus on Sunday he called it Dominica.

Examples of the manner in which letters should be addressed to the island of Haiti-Santo Domingo follow: (1) American Consulate, Port au Prince, Haiti, West Indies. (2) American Consulate, Puerto Plata, Dominican Republic, West Indies.

PETROLEUM REFINING IN VENEZUELA.

[Consul Emil Sauer, Maracaibo, Sept. 3.]

The petroleum refinery erected by the Caribbean Petroleum Co. at San Lorenzo, on the east side of Lake Maracaibo, some 70 miles from the city of Maracaibo, started operations on August 18. The refinery has a daily capacity of about 2,000 barrels (of 42 gallons each).

Kerosene costs in the retail market of Maracaibo 2.80 bolivars, or 54 cents, per gallon, and gasoline, 3.50 bolivars, or 67½ cents, per gallon. The price of both will very likely go down when the products from the new refinery are put on the market here. Reduction in the prices of gasoline may be expected to affect favorably the market here for motor boats and automobiles, especially motor boats. Lack of improved roads, however, will continue to discourage importation of automobiles.

The crude petroleum at San Lorenzo is said to yield only 9 or 10 per cent kerosene and gasoline in the ratio of about 2 to 1, respectively. It is expected that a market will be found locally for the large percentage of fuel oil. Some of the sugar refineries have already made arrangements to burn fuel oil.

A refinery is being erected also at Curaçao by the Curaçao Petroleum Co., which plant is expected to be completed by the end of this year. The crude petroleum for this refinery will come from the Lake Maracaibo region. Pipe lines have been laid from the wells to Lake Maracaibo, and from there crude oil is carried in barges to Curaçao, a trip of several days for the slow tugs. Two such tank barges, with a capacity of 600 tons each, are operating at present, and eight additional barges, with a capacity of 1,000 to 1,200 tons each, with the necessary tugs, will be procured by the time the refinery at Curaçao begins operations.

[A report on Venezuela's petroleum industry was published in **COMMERCE REPORTS** for Oct. 7, 1916.]

Through a typographical error on page 1108 of **COMMERCE REPORTS** for September 22, 1917, a line of type which contained the name of the owner of a new garage in Honolulu, Hawaii, was omitted. The statement should have been: "Another extensive garage is being erected opposite the old royal Hawaiian palace for the Royal Hawaiian Garage Co."

PERUVIAN CURRENCY SITUATION.

[Henry Wasserman, Jr., clerk to commercial attaché, Lima, Aug. 10; see also **COMMERCE REPORTS** for Sept. 6 and 15, 1917.]

On August 8 both chambers of the Peruvian Congress approved a bill designed to relieve the pressing monetary situation of the country. The new law authorizes the Junta de Vigilancia, a body representing the Ministry of Finance and having control over the issuance of the national currency, to issue 5,000,000 soles (approximately \$2,500,000) in gold certificates of the denomination of one-tenth of a pound (\$0.50 at present exchange) and subsidiary coins of nickel of denominations of 20, 10, and 5 centavos (\$0.10, \$0.05, and \$0.025) to the amount of 500,000 soles (\$250,000). By an amendment adopted August 9, 1917, this amount was increased to 1,000,000 soles (\$500,000).

Hitherto the money in circulation has consisted of paper bills known as "cheques circulares," or circulating checks, in denominations of half pound, pound, 5 pounds, and 10 pounds; silver pieces of 5, 10, 20, and 50 centavos, and 1 sol; and gold 1-pound coins. The high price of bullion and bar silver has caused the gradual withdrawal from circulation in Peru of almost all the silver coin, with the result that transactions involving small sums were made difficult and in many instances were impossible. Printed notices have been hung these last few days in many shops, announcing that no change will be made for paper or gold unless goods to the amount of at least 3 soles are bought.

Issuance of Paper Currency.

The outbreak of the world war made itself felt in Peru by the disappearance of gold from commercial transactions and the rise in price, and consequent scarcity, of silver. It was this situation that brought about the issuance of the present paper currency, known as "cheques circulares," by legislation enacted in August and October of 1914. In addition to the authorized denominations, the issuance of a smaller check, equal in value to a sol, was discussed but rejected.

Coincident with the circulation of the new paper currency came a rise in the value of silver. A law passed in December, 1915, authorized the monthly coinage of silver in denominations of 5, 10, 20, and 50 centavos and 1 sol to the amount of 200,000 soles monthly and brought about a temporary change for the better. Meanwhile the "cheque circular" had strengthened its prestige and gold had returned to circulation, but lately the silver crisis has reappeared. Plenty of gold or paper is to be had, but silver is so scarce that travelers on their way to southern Peru have had to pay a premium of 2 to 5 per cent, and in some cases more, to change gold or paper for silver for use in Arequipa and the surrounding district, where the situation is worse than in Lima.

What the business public has urged during the past several weeks, as it did a year ago, is the issuance of a small paper bill, equal to one-tenth of a pound, and the coinage of nickel money, which has finally been adopted.

Nickel Coins.

From August, 1914, to June 30, 1917, there had been turned out at the Mint 5,106,163 soles, of which 8,106,163 were coined in accordance

with the legislation of December, 1915. Each sol weighs 25 grams and contains 22.5 grams of fine silver. In the Peruvian monetary system each sol's value is 24 pence (\$0.48); but the actual market value of the silver content has reached 42 pence per ounce troy weight, making the intrinsic value of the coin higher than its money value.

The laws of August, 1917, authorize the coining in the United States, and issue by the Peruvian Government, of nickel coins to the value of 500,000 soles in denominations of 20 centavos, 300,000 soles in denominations of 10 centavos, and 200,000 soles in denominations of 5 centavos. The 5-centavo pieces are to be 75 per cent copper and 25 per cent nickel; the other coins are to be pure nickel. The 5-centavo pieces are to be legal tender to the amount of 1 sol. The Government will deposit with the Junta de Vigilancia gold equal to the amount of nickel money coined, to constitute a special fund for exchanging nickel coins for silver coins. This will be done, however, only when the London quotation for the troy ounce of standard silver shall have been maintained at less than 30 pence (\$0.60) for a period of at least six months.

"Cheques Circulares."

The "cheques circulares," of denominations already named, are issued in accordance with the laws of August 22 and October 1, 1914, by the following banks: Perú y Londres, Italiano, Internacional del Perú, Popular del Perú, Aleman, Transatlántico, and Caja de Ahorros (Savings Bank).

The main provisions of the enactment of August 22 authorize the above-mentioned institutions to issue "cheques circulares," payable to bearer, of the denominations of 1, 5, and 10 pounds. Each bank must have in its vaults gold equal in amount to 35 per cent of its particular issue, and securities, consisting of mortgage bonds, commercial paper, and Government bonds, equal to at least 65 per cent of the bank's issue. These securities were to be subject to acceptance at the discretion of the Junta de Vigilancia—a board composed of two members chosen by the National Legislature, a delegate of the Government, and a representative of the Lima Chamber of Commerce, none of whom could be a director or agent of any of the issuing banks, and who were to supervise the issue. The "cheques circulares" have a first lien on these securities.

The issue was to be gradual, according to the needs of the banks, and in proportion to the gold and security guaranty. Their retirement is to take place six months after the conclusion of the present war. The banks, upon their first issue, were to make the Government a loan of £p. 100,000, each institution participating in proportion to its check emission, payment of this loan to be effected by the tobacco taxes in a manner agreed upon between the issuing banks and the Government, with annual interest at the rate of 7 per cent and amortization of 3 per cent.

Provisions of the Second Law.

The second law modified the first. The limit of the issue by all the banks was increased by £p. 1,100,000. Twenty per cent of the issue was to be guaranteed by gold coin, for which was to be made available those gold deposits which the banks had in the National City Bank

of New York. These funds were to be placed at the order of the Junta, and no necessity would exist for their transference to Lima. Thirty per cent of the issue was to be guaranteed in mortgage cedulas, at their face value, or in mortgage bonds accepted at 75 per cent of their face value; by the real estate, rural or urban, belonging to the banks and located within the Republic at 75 per cent of its appraised value; and various other commercial securities, at the discretion of the Junta de Vigilancia. The banks were to pay a tax equivalent to interest at the rate of 3 per cent annually on the sum by which the emission exceeded the gold deposit. The banks' loan to the Government was raised to £p. 500,000 and was to draw interest when the "cheques circulares" were converted. This loan was to be guaranteed by 10 per cent of the net revenue of the tobacco taxes, which interest was to be applied to the amortization beginning with January 1, 1915.

On conversion of the checks the balance of the debt was to be guaranteed by 20 per cent of the annual net revenue on tobacco. This 20 per cent was to be applied to the interest of the loan at the annual rate of 6 per cent, and the rest to the amortization. Bills of one-half pound denomination were to be issued also. At the Junta's discretion other guaranties could be substituted for those accepted by it, on condition that they were of the same kind and value.

A nonpartisan committee consisting of four members, representatives of the Congress, was chosen to take the places of the existing members of the Junta de Vigilancia in case of incapacity, sickness, etc. The value of those checks not presented for conversion 12 months after the day on which redemption was to begin, after due notice in the public press, was to be forfeited to the National Treasury.

Status of the Circulating Check Issue.

The amount of "cheques circulares" printed, in circulation, and unissued on August 6, 1917, was:

Circulating checks.	Denom- ination.	Total value.
Printed:		
25,000	£p. 10.00	£p. 250,000
150,000	5.00	750,000
1,000,000	1.00	1,000,000
1,000,000	0.50	500,000
In circulation:		
14,666	10.00	145,660
134,667	5.00	673,335
997,436	1.00	997,436
998,994	0.50	499,447
Not yet issued:		
7,426	10.00	74,260
15,061	5.00	75,305
1,389	1.00	1,389

The unissued portion of each bank's allotment was: Banco Italiano, £p. 100,000; Banco Popular del Perú, £p. 28,500; Caja de Ahorros (Savings Bank), £p. 22,454.

The average gold deposit back of the issue amounted on this date to 54.71 per cent.

Gold and Security Guaranties.

The condition of the issue of the "cheques circulares" and their guaranties from December 31, 1914, which closed a period of two

months after the passage of the laws authorizing the issue, until August 8, 1917, is shown semiannually in the table below. All the values are in terms of pounds Peruvian, £p. 1 at the present rate of exchange being worth \$5.

Banks.	Issue.	Gold. guaranty.	Per cent.	Security guaranty.	Per cent.
<i>Dec. 31, 1914.</i>					
Perú y Londres.....	£p. 804,000	£p. 162,400	20.20	£p. 644,926	80.21
Italiano.....	218,740	66,400	30.36	156,658	71.62
Internacional.....	92,000	18,400	20.00	73,661	80.06
Popular.....	164,000	38,500	23.48	132,092	80.91
Alemán Transatlántico.....	509,920	134,000	26.28	390,172	76.52
Caja de Ahorros.....	190,946	22,247	11.65	207,326	108.58
<i>June 30, 1915.</i>					
Perú y Londres.....	876,039	189,438	21.62	719,706	82.15
Italiano.....	216,876	76,400	35.23	151,773	69.97
Internacional.....	95,315	19,200	20.14	77,203	81.00
Popular.....	190,073	40,000	21.04	156,517	82.34
Alemán Transatlántico.....	668,231	139,000	20.80	533,087	79.77
Caja de Ahorros.....	275,801	22,247	8.06	264,190	92.16
<i>Dec. 31, 1915.</i>					
Perú y Londres.....	876,039	175,433	20.02	705,202	80.49
Italiano.....	215,655	100,000	46.37	125,883	58.37
Internacional.....	95,315	24,000	25.18	72,262	75.80
Popular.....	188,716	53,000	28.06	142,262	75.33
Alemán Transatlántico.....	664,716	160,000	24.07	521,145	78.89
Caja de Ahorros.....	275,801	23,406	8.48	266,692	93.07
<i>June 30, 1916.</i>					
Perú y Londres.....	876,039	301,000	34.36	575,481	65.68
Italiano.....	213,650	154,000	72.06	70,377	32.94
Internacional.....	95,315	29,000	30.43	67,225	70.53
Popular.....	186,878	65,000	34.78	131,967	70.62
Alemán Transatlántico.....	661,529	162,300	24.53	513,772	77.66
Caja de Ahorros.....	272,034	71,700	26.36	222,332	81.71
<i>Dec. 31, 1916.</i>					
Perú y Londres.....	875,764	381,061	43.52	496,103	56.88
Italiano.....	213,650	213,650	100.00	.....	.....
Internacional.....	95,000	41,800	44.00	58,023	61.07
Popular.....	186,878	90,000	42.81	112,178	60.02
Alemán Transatlántico.....	661,348	221,000	33.41	449,235	67.93
Caja de Ahorros.....	272,034	147,200	54.11	132,642	48.76
<i>June 30, 1917.</i>					
Perú y Londres.....	875,764	400,000	45.67	502,779	57.41
Italiano.....	226,910	226,910	100.00	.....	.....
Internacional.....	95,000	45,600	48.00	50,026	52.66
Popular.....	186,878	82,000	43.87	110,878	59.33
Alemán Transatlántico.....	661,333	250,000	37.80	413,967	62.55
Caja de Ahorros.....	272,034	200,000	73.52	70,583	26.15
<i>Aug. 8, 1917.</i>					
Perú y Londres.....	875,764	400,000	45.67	483,899	55.26
Italiano.....	226,910	226,910	100.00	.....	.....
Internacional.....	95,000	47,500	50.00	46,711	52.33
Popular.....	186,878	96,000	51.37	110,157	58.94
Alemán Transatlántico.....	661,333	300,000	45.36	412,686	62.36
Caja de Ahorros.....	272,034	217,628	80.00	56,090	20.61

It is worthy of notice that the Banco Italiano, which is supported by a large, thrifty Italian colony in Lima, has its issue guaranteed by a 100 per cent gold reserve. The Caja de Ahorros, with a gold reserve of 80 per cent, is a savings bank of a semi-public nature, being owned and operated by the Beneficencia Pública and with a patronage drawn very largely from the poorer people of Lima.

BICYCLE ACCESSORIES IN AUSTRALIA AND SWEDEN.

[Consul General J. I. Brittain, Sydney, Australia, June 20.]

Many bicycle accessories are now imported by Australia from the United States, as well as from the United Kingdom. The statistics of the various articles are not kept separately, but are grouped under the heading "Cycle parts," and include bells, saddles, steel trouser clips, toe clips, bands, parcel carriers, repair outfits, etc. Bicycle sundries are sold here by dealers in motor accessories and hardware.

Imports of cycle parts, plated, brazed, enameled, or permanently joined (including rims); cycle accessories and parts, including steel trouser clips, steel toe clips, and bands, bells, saddles and saddle covers, parcel carriers, inflator clips and connections, and repair outfits during the years ended June 30, 1915 and 1916, were:

Countries.	1915	1916	Countries.	1915	1916
United Kingdom.....	\$175,301	\$214,054	Switzerland.....		\$978
Canada.....	8,387	6,356	United States.....	\$32,610	41,342
France.....	1,032	2,798	Germany.....	9,208	
Italy.....		832	Other foreign countries.....	482	350
Japan.....		10,040			

Imports of various other cycle parts, including steel bars for making rims, ball heads not permanently joined and parts thereof, plated or unplated; bottom brackets, including bracket shells, and plated or unplated axles, cups, cranks, cotter and locking pins, lubricators and chain wheel; hubs, including sprocket wheels, lock rings, and free wheel clutches; lugs, fork ends, bridges, nipples, spokes, spoke washers, chains, pedals, and parts thereof; valves for pneumatic tires, cyclometers, speedometers, and inflators, during the years ended June 30, 1915 and 1916, were:

Countries.	1915	1916	Countries.	1915	1916
United Kingdom.....	\$374,550	\$352,164	Switzerland.....	\$2,112	\$2,482
Canada.....	16,848	40,319	United States.....	118,227	263,818
France.....	1,703	5,646	Germany.....	4,492	
Italy.....	535	769	Other foreign countries.....	521	477
Japan.....		18,128			

[Lists of dealers in bicycle sundries or accessories, dealers in automobile accessories, and hardware merchants at Sydney, Australia, may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 91078.]

[Consul Wallace J. Young, Goteborg, Sweden, July 23.]

Manufacture of Ball Bearings in Sweden.

Some large ball-bearing factories are operated in the Goteborg district. One recently decided to raise its capital stock by 21,000,000 crowns (\$5,628,000), or from 35,000,000 crowns (\$9,380,000) to 56,000,000 crowns (\$15,008,000), and it is reported in the daily press that a new ball-bearing manufacturing company is being organized with a capital stock of 4,000,000 crowns (\$1,072,000) minimum and 12,000,000 crowns (\$3,216,000) maximum. As the ball bearings of Swedish make have already been well introduced in the domestic market as well as in a number of other countries, including the United States, it is assumed that it would be difficult to compete

with them here. This applies especially to ball bearings for power transmission in factories, for railroad engines and cars, automobiles, etc.

Scarcity of Tires for Bicycles.

Under ordinary conditions there would probably be better prospects for selling door bells and ball bearings and hubs for wheels, but at present there is a scarcity of tires for bicycles, as well as for other purposes, and such vehicles are not largely used. The import duty on ball bearings and roller bearings is 10 per cent ad valorem.

The latest statistics of trade published here are those for 1914. Imports and exports of roller bearings and ball bearings for 1912, 1913, and 1914 were:

Classes of goods.	Imports.			Exports.		
	1912	1913	1914	1912	1913	1914
Roller bearings and ball bearings:						
Finished—						
Weighing not more than 2.2 pounds each.	\$3,665	\$5,647	\$9,098	\$276,264	\$131,146	\$53,510
Weighing more than 2.2 but not more than 33 pounds each.	1,103	1,128	1,581	308,417	796,776	1,011,609
Weighing more than 33 pounds each.	122	223	.....	44,811	48,064	12,915
Other kinds:						
Weighing not more than 33 pounds each.	4,252	4,433	4,333	665	880	909
Of greater weight.	139	82	650	23	1,197	549

In 1914 these exports went to the United States, Germany, France, Great Britain, Russia, Australia, Argentina, Norway, Holland, Italy, Denmark, Austria, Belgium, Finland, Spain, China, Japan, Switzerland, Brazil, and other countries.

Ball bearings for machinery are handled by dealers in machinery. Door bells, ball bearings for bicycles, etc., could be handled by wholesale hardware dealers.

[Lists of dealers in machinery, wholesale hardware dealers, and wholesale dealers in bicycles in Sweden may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 92631.]

Receipts of Vera Cruz Customhouse During August.

Consul William W. Canada reports from Vera Cruz, Mexico, that according to data just published the receipts of the Vera Cruz customhouse during the month of August were as follows, in Mexican currency: Import duties, \$1,382,138; export duties, \$265,745; 2 per cent municipal, \$28,084; and sundries, \$30,880.

OFFICES OF THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE.

DISTRICT OFFICES.

NEW YORK: 734 Customhouse.
BOSTON: 1801 Customhouse.
CHICAGO: 504 Federal Building.
ST. LOUIS: 402 Third National Bank Building.
NEW ORLEANS: 1020 Hibernia Bank Building.
SAN FRANCISCO: 807 Customhouse.
SEATTLE: 848 Henry Building.

COOPERATIVE OFFICES.

CLEVELAND: Chamber of Commerce.
CINCINNATI: Chamber of Commerce.
CINCINNATI: General Freight Agent, Southern Railway, 96 Ingalls Building.
LOS ANGELES: Chamber of Commerce.
PHILADELPHIA: Chamber of Commerce.
CHATTANOOGA: South American Agent, Southern Railway System.
PORTLAND, OREG.: Chamber of Commerce.
DAYTON: Greater Dayton Association.

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the Bureau and its district and cooperative offices. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and state opportunity number. The Bureau does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases. Symbols: * Reported by American consular officers; † Reported by commercial attachés and commercial agents; ‡ Direct inquiries received by the Bureau.

In considering the following "opportunities" regard should be had to the regulations requiring export licenses for certain articles.

Agricultural implements.....	25523	Linoleum and enamel cloth.....	25530
Asphalt and cement.....	25523	Machinery.....	25523, 25527
Automobiles and accessories.....	25523, 25528	Matches.....	25523
Boots and shoes.....	25523	Motor boats.....	25524
Calfskins and glazed kid.....	25526	Office supplies.....	25523
Drugs and chemicals.....	25523, 25529	Oils.....	25523
Dyes.....	25529	Paint.....	25523
Electrical supplies.....	25523	Paper.....	25523, 25529
Flour.....	25523	Petroleum and gasoline.....	25523
Forage presses.....	25523	Provisions.....	25523
Furnishings, men's.....	25523	Rope and twine.....	25523
General sundries.....	25529	Slate pencils.....	25525
Glass and enamelware.....	25529	Stationery.....	25529
Hardware.....	25523, 25529	Textiles and piece goods.....	25523, 25529
Iron products and metals.....	25523, 25529	Yarn.....	25529
Leather and shoemakers' supplies.....	25523	Lumber.....	25523

25523.†—A commission and shipping house in the United States, acting as agent for several foreign firms, desires to receive quotations from American manufacturers and exporters of petroleum, gasoline, asphalt, lumber, automobiles, cement, galvanized-iron sheets, iron bars for cement construction, agricultural implements, forage presses, wrought-iron pipes, textiles, provisions, flour, boots and shoes for women, drugs and chemicals, hardware, electrical supplies, paper, office supplies, men's furnishings, rope and twine, matches, lumber, cement machinery, lubricating oils, all kinds of leather and shoemakers' supplies, and paint. Catalogues and samples should be submitted wherever possible. References.

25524.*—A man in Portugal wishes to purchase motor boats. He also wishes to entertain an agency for the sale of these boats. Quotations should be made f. o. b. American port. Credit will be opened in New York. Correspondence should be in French. References.

25525.*—A company in England is in the market for slate pencils packed in boxes of 50 pencils, 100 boxes to a case, and boxes of 100 pencils, packed in cases of 100 boxes. Quotations should be made f. o. b. New York. Cash will be paid in the United States. References.

25526.†—A firm in Argentina wishes to represent, on a commission basis, American manufacturers and exporters of high-grade tan willow calf, tan calf, black calf, box calf, and glazed kid in black and colors. It also wishes to represent firms dealing in varnished leathers. Correspondence may be in English. References.

25527.†—A company in Australia desires to receive full information in regard to machinery for canning meat, making margarine, and general abattoir machinery, with a view to purchasing same. Catalogues, price lists, etc., should be submitted. Business will be transacted through recognized American commission house. Quotations should be made f. o. b. New York.

25528.*—A man in Portugal wishes to buy automobile accessories. He also desires to secure an agency for the sale of these goods. Quotations should be made f. o. b. American port. Credit will be opened in New York for payment. Correspondence should be in French. References.

25529.*—A company in India desires to secure an agency for the sale of cotton, woolen, and mercerized piece goods, yarn, metal, hardware, glass and enamelware, dyes, chemicals, paper, stationery, and general sundries. Payment will be made against documents at 30 or 60 days' sight, if documents of acceptance is not practicable. References.

25530.*—A firm in Italy is in the market for enamel cloth and linoleum. Catalogues and full line of samples should be submitted wherever possible. Correspondence should be in French or Italian. Reference.

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No. 233

Washington, D. C., Friday, October 5

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AUSTRALIAN PROHIBITION ON AUTOMOBILE BODIES.

An article published in a Melbourne daily paper and forwarded to the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce by Commercial Attaché Philip B. Kennedy throws additional light on the policy of the Australian Government in regard to the recent prohibition of the importation of automobile bodies.

Representatives of importing concerns had waited upon the Minister of Customs to protest against the enforcement of the prohibition, thus causing some fears on the part of the manufacturing interests that the restriction might be withdrawn. Deputations representing manufacturers of motor-car bodies and allied interests in the State of Victoria accordingly appeared before the Minister to present the claims of the home producers. The trades represented were motor-body builders, leather workers, sheet-metal workers, metal parts, plating, glass beveling, varnish, and paints. The manufacturers gave assurances that there would be no difficulty in supplying local requirements of motor bodies, one representative stating that his firm alone was prepared to turn out 180 motor bodies by January, 1918. Australian-made bodies, it was contended, were quite as good as imported bodies, and in some cases outlasted them. Scarcity of sheet-metal supplies was mentioned, but supplies on the way and new production by Australian firms were expected to remedy the shortage.

In his reply to the deputation the Minister stated that the Government expected to maintain its original position in regard to the prohibition. A petition to that same effect had already been received from the New South Wales body builders. The Minister expressed confidence in the ability of Australian manufacturers to equal the standard of imported goods and stated that no alarm need be felt because of the petitions of importing interests. The Government would be guided by the actions of the home manufacturers, and if they went to the expense of putting in extra plant the Government did not propose to destroy the value of their enterprise. The matter would

be regarded, in the Minister's words, "not only from a financial and commercial point of view, but also from the Australian viewpoint."

[See COMMERCE REPORTS for Aug. 14 and 15 for announcements of the Australian import prohibitions on articles of luxury.]

ARGENTINE MEAT EXPORTS FOR SIX MONTHS.

[Lew B. Clark, clerk to commercial attaché, Buenos Aires.]

Foreign meat shipments during the first six months of 1917 show a slight falling off in comparison with the corresponding period of 1916, but considering the difficulties attending European shipments they have held up fairly well. The following table shows the figures for the first six months of 1916 and 1917:

Shipping company (packing house).	January-June, 1916.			January-June, 1917.		
	Sheep.	Frozen beef.	Chilled beef.	Sheep.	Frozen beef.	Chilled beef.
	<i>Carcasses.</i>	<i>Quarters.</i>	<i>Quarters.</i>	<i>Carcasses.</i>	<i>Quarters.</i>	<i>Quarters.</i>
Cia. Sansinena de Carnes Con- jeladas.....	174,536	141,099	34,689	125,543	102,755	24,336
Las Palmas Produce Co.....	154,495	625,677	92,815	208,063	715,564	63,255
La Blanca, S. America.....	195,486	245,089	62,779	112,514	282,222	50,003
Cia. Swift, La Plata.....	259,440	497,740	89,167	119,393	366,200	120,526
Smithfield & Argentine Meat Co.....	34,126	132,334	24,162	40,800	131,395	22,506
Argentino Central.....	101,193	117,209	35,707	162,711	118,200	25,723
Frigerifico Armour de La Plata	126,111	302,527	42,876	164,713	341,236	47,504
La Frigo. Uruguay.....	18,906	191,313	12,508	24,752	116,459	11,441
Cia. Swift de Montevideo.....	54,965	440,447	76,313	41,284	407,974	13,089
Total.....	1,122,221	2,697,055	469,916	937,493	2,582,025	376,983

To the figures above for the shipments of sheep and frozen beef in the 1917 period should be added the exports of the Anglo-South American Meat Co., amounting to 54,597 carcasses of sheep and 78,484 quarters of frozen beef, making these totals 992,090 and 2,660,509, respectively. This company did not ship any during the first six months of 1916.

AMERICAN-MADE BRIDGE TO SPAN COLOMBIAN RIVER.

[Perry Belden, chargé d'affaires ad interim, Bogota, Colombia, Sept. 7.]

A representative of an American company has recently arrived in Colombia to inspect the site for a bridge over the river Coello at Chicoral, Department of Tolima, which is to be erected in connection with the Tolima Railroad now under construction. The bridge will probably be delivered at Cartagena in November or December next. The contract price was \$15,900 on board at New York.

In connection with this bridge it is interesting to note that the Minister for Public Works has recommended that, when possible, a long iron span be constructed over the Magdalena River to connect the Girardot and Tolima Railroads. Should the Chicoral bridge prove satisfactory, preference in contracting for the Girardot-Tolima bridge would be given to the same concern.

**EVERY PATRIOT is Expected to Invest in the Second Issue of
THE LIBERTY LOAN.**

INLAND WATERWAYS IN GERMANY.

A writer in the *Frankfurter Zeitung* of July 20 believes that the matter of developing the country's inland waterways will be the most important question of commercial politics that Germany will have to face after the war.

Great difficulty will be encountered in the matter of obtaining crews. The high price of materials will hamper the building of new craft, and many boats have been lost during the war from one cause or another. Apparently there will be a heavy demand for inland shipping space after the war.

The demand for space on seagoing vessels will be very heavy, as Germany will have to fill up its warehouses with raw materials that have not been arriving during the past three years. The whole world will be buying German potash at the first opportunity, despite high freights; and soon after the importation of raw materials has commenced the exportation of finished products will begin.

It may be fairly anticipated that the railway freights all over Germany will be greatly increased, partly because of the natural increase in all prices and partly on account of increased governmental taxes on freights and railroads. This is another reason why German waterways should be developed, for the rise in the cost of water transportation will not keep pace with the probable increase in railway freight rates.

The writer advocates a tax on all ocean bills of lading as a means of raising money to improve and extend German waterways.

DEVELOPMENT OF PERUVIAN COAL LANDS.

[Commercial Attaché William F. Montavon, Lima, Sept. 10.]

The Minister of Fomento, Lima, Peru, has just appointed two committees for the purpose of reporting on the practicability of developing with local means the rich coal fields that are known to exist in central and northern Peru. Mr. Enrique Dueñas is chairman of the first committee and is to make an exhaustive study of the soft-coal deposits at Oyon, in the vicinity of the mines of the Cerro de Pasco Copper Co. It has been proposed to extend the Northwestern Railway of Peru from its present terminus at Sayan to this field. Mr. Carlos Portella is chairman of the second committee and is to report on the anthracite field of the Santa Valley. The Santa Valley terminates in the port of Chimbote, and the present railway extends to within a few kilometers of the coal field it is now proposed to develop.

The high prices demanded for fuel of all kinds, and especially for steaming coal in Peru, has aroused considerable local interest in the coal deposits which for a great many years have been known to exist in Peru. The present Minister of Fomento, who is a practical engineer, is taking a keen interest in the efforts being made to develop these natural resources by employing local capital.

In the report on Kobe's pearl-button industry, published in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for October 3, the equivalent of the sen in United States currency should have been 0.498 cent.

MEAT PACKING IN BRAZIL.

[Consul General Alfred L. Moreau Gottschalk, Rio de Janeiro, Sept. 3.]

An American company's policy of introducing into Brazil a certain number of cattle of blooded stock and of a type best suited to the meat-packing business, together with the Brazilian Government's intended founding of zootechnic posts, should in a relatively short time result in a notable improvement in the Brazilian herds. From the economic point of view a matter of this kind is very vital to Brazil at present, as there seems to be little doubt left that the future holds in store for this Republic a prominent place in the meat industry of the world.

I have just been addressed by a Brazilian gentleman prominent in Brazilian-American trade, who states that he considers the northern part of Brazil (which possesses large tracts of available pasture land and which has not yet attracted the attention of the meat packers as it should (a region exceedingly favorable to American investment in the way of helping to improve the local stock with a view to ultimate slaughter and export. He is confident that if the packing houses cared to supply 50 head of 2-year-old bulls of approved type, such as Herefords, and 20 rams of some good packing-house type, together with the same number of pigs (it should be noted that the best success in this country thus far has been with Romney Marsh sheep and Duroc-Jersey pigs), four or five years later it would prove a profitable investment to put up a chilling plant in the State of Piauí, where many thousand head of suitable cattle would by that time be ready.

Suggested Establishment of Stud Farms.

He states further that he would be willing to enter into an arrangement by which he would bind himself to set up farms upon which to keep these animals, not only for the use of his own cattle but to serve all those who may wish to avail themselves of the service of improved bulls and sheep and pigs in his neighborhood. He says he would accept the responsibility of selling cattle of the improved type to no one other firm for slaughtering purposes for a certain number of years and would, of course, accept what penalties may be thought reasonable for any departure from the agreement. He says, further, that he would sell off from his present ranches, which contain nearly 1,000 head of unimproved stock, all the "scrub" bulls which he now owns.

If such a proposition were acceptable, arrangements would have to be made for the shipment of animals from the United States in two or three lots, and the time would have to be fixed by him as to the best season to send them. Alfalfa may be raised in the region alluded to, and there is reason to believe that conditions are favorable for an enterprise such as this.

In this connection it may be of interest to note that a well-known French banking and credit institution is now going over the whole of this region for the second time, in the hope of obtaining concessions, and has purchased two large blocks of land and all the cattle thereon at Maranhão.

EXAMINATION FOR RADIO INSPECTOR.

The United States Civil Service Commission has announced an open competitive examination for the position of radio inspector to be held on November 7, 1917. A roll of men only will be prepared from this examination to fill vacancies that may occur in the positions of radio inspector and assistant radio inspector in the service of the United States Bureau of Navigation. Entrance salaries range from \$1,200 to \$1,600 a year, depending on the qualifications of the appointee.

The duties of radio inspectors primarily are to inspect the radio apparatus on steamships, to insure its compliance with the law, and to inspect shore stations. The inspectors may also be called upon to examine radio operators. The duties require some office experience. Assistant radio inspectors primarily assist radio inspectors in the enforcement of the wireless-communication laws. They will be required to inspect the radio equipment on board vessels and in land stations, which involves the carrying of 30 or 40 pounds of testing and measuring instruments. The inspection work requires a knowledge of the installation and operation of the several types of radio installations, including the adjustment and tuning of transmitters and receivers.

Applicants must have received a bachelor of science degree from a school of recognized standing, such educational training to have included a special course in radio or kindred sciences, or show that they are senior students in such institutions; or that they have had the equivalent of a high-school education and in addition not less than two years' experience in special radio work, such as the manufacture, installation, or adjustment of commercial or governmental wireless apparatus. It is desirable, but not essential, that they be wireless telegraph operators. Applicants must have reached their twentieth birthday on the date of the examination. They should at once apply for Form 1312, stating the title of the examination desired, to the Civil Service Commission, Washington, D. C., or to the Secretary of the United States Civil Service Board at any place in the various States.

AN OPENING FOR HOSPITAL EQUIPMENT IN ECUADOR.

A special agent of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce reports that a new hospital is to be built in one of the cities of Ecuador and that equipment will be needed in the near future, consisting of hospital beds, tables, chairs, etc. American manufacturers interested should write, in Spanish, and catalogues in the same language should be submitted, to the address on file at the Bureau or its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 1284.

Hawaii to Discontinue Manufacture of Sake.

A. P. Taylor, correspondent at Honolulu, reports that the manufacture of sake, a Japanese fermented liquor made from rice, is to be discontinued throughout the Hawaiian Islands, as a measure to conserve the supply of rice for food consumption. Hawaii has a number of such manufactories.

CONSTRUCTION WORK.**DOMINICAN REPUBLIC.**

[Consul Arthur McLean, Puerto Plata, Sept. 11.]

To Install Waterworks and Electric-Light Plants.

Puerto Plata and Santiago de los Caballeros are the only towns in this district that have both waterworks and electric-light plants. Monte Cristi, a seaport with about 3,000 inhabitants, has a waterworks but has not an electric-light plant.

The seaports of Samana and Sanchez, each of which has a population of about 2,500, and the interior towns of Moca, La Vega, San Francisco de Macoris, each estimated to have about 5,000 inhabitants, and Salcedo, another inland town of about 2,000, have neither waterworks nor electric-light plants. All of these towns are studying their requirements and intend to install as soon as practicable both waterworks and electric-light plants.

Those interested should address the "Ayuntamientos" of the towns mentioned.

ENGLAND.

[Consul C. M. Hitch, Nottingham, Sept. 4.]

Negotiations have been concluded for the lease of a large building in Nottingham to a prominent and well-known firm of picture-house proprietors for a long term of years, the lease to take effect immediately.

It is understood that the lessees control a large number of the principal picture houses in Great Britain, and that their intention is, when circumstances permit, to convert the building into one of the finest picture houses in the country.

The lease is for 21 years, and the lessees agree to expend \$25,000 on the reconstruction of the hall within 18 months of the close of the war.

The hall has the largest seating capacity of any building in the city.

[The names of the lessees may be secured from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district or cooperative offices by referring to file No. 93037.]

MEXICO.

[Consul General George A. Chamberlain, Mexico City, Sept. 17.]

Port Works at Frontera.

An announcement has been given out from the office of the Secretary of Communications and Public Works in Mexico City to the effect that the operations connected with the project for the improvement of the port of Frontera, in the State of Tabasco, are to be undertaken without further delay. These operations will embrace the work of dredging the channel, so that vessels of a certain draft may enter the roadstead, and the construction of a steel pier, thereby enabling vessels touching at this port to come alongside. This structure will take the place of the wooden pier now at Frontera. Interested parties should address all communications relating to the above subject to the Secretary of Communications and Public Works, Mexico City, D. F., Mexico.

SIAM.

[Vice Consul Carl C. Hansen, Bangkok, Aug. 16.]

In the budget estimates of Siam for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1918, appropriations have been made to the amount of \$1,369,000 for the extension of the northern railway line, \$212,010 for the construction of branch lines of the southern railway, \$1,717,355 for the irrigation project now under construction, \$48,877 for Bangkok waterworks, and \$321,252 for the completion of the new royal yacht.

COCOA CROP OF PUERTO CABELLO DISTRICT.

[Consul Frank Anderson Henry, Puerto Cabello, Venezuela, Sept. 15.]

The summer crop of cacao has been gathered and is to a large extent in the hands of the merchants. The yield is generally reported as good.

No exact figures can be given as to cacao production in this district. Some idea can be secured from the exports, but these do not altogether represent local production, as coastwise shipments are sometimes made here from producing sections in other parts of Venezuela and exported from this port. For the first six months of 1916 and 1917 and for July and August, 1917, the cacao exports from Puerto Cabello totaled:

Exported to—	Jan.-June, 1916.		Jan.-June, 1917.		July-Aug., 1917.	
	Pounds.	Value.	Pounds.	Value.	Pounds.	Value.
United States.....	1,841,777	\$274,272	3,016,547	\$408,729	591,470	\$78,741
France.....	285,628	42,235	944,499	98,715	194,313	25,502
Spain.....	433,680	65,614	479,968	66,274	154,467	18,511
Other countries.....	352,990	50,554	26,455	4,170		
Total.....	2,914,081	432,735	4,467,470	577,887	940,250	122,754

Prices in 1917 have been considerably lower than in 1916. Local quotations during last year ranged between 14.7 and 17.5 cents per pound the first-class cacao and 13 and 14 cents for the second class. During the present year the price ranges have been 12.3 to 14.5 cents for the first class and 7.7 to 13.7 cents for the second class. Present prices are near the bottom figures. The increasing difficulties of transportation to Europe make New York prices the controlling ones in Venezuelan markets and the present feeling as to the future trend of values is distinctly pessimistic.

The prospects for the next principal harvest, which begins in December, are considered good, but there is no really accurate advance information to be had concerning it.

CLASSIFICATION OF EXPORT LICENSES.

The Exports Administrative Board has announced that, in addition to the commodities listed in its notice of "Articles Requiring Export License" [published in COMMERCE REPORTS for Sept. 21], the following, controlled by the second division of the President's proclamation of August 27, 1917, require licenses before being exported to any country of the world: Brass, bronze, and caustic soda.

DENMARK'S INDUSTRIAL-SAMPLE FAIR.

[Commercial Attaché Erwin W. Thompson, Copenhagen, Aug. 11.]

At Fredericia, a seaport town of Jutland, is a "Koebestaevn" or industrial-sample fair after the pattern of the famous fair at Leipzig, and, like the latter, it has been organized on a permanent basis, with a splendid permanent brick-and-stone exhibition building. This is the fourth year of its existence, and it promises to be entirely successful.

The purpose of the fair is to bring together the merchants and manufacturers of Denmark. The success of this idea is made the more secure as import difficulties increase, throwing the country more and more on its own resources. Articles are now being manufactured in the Kingdom that were not before considered possible, or at least not profitable; and this fact the fair presents to the Danish merchants and consumers as no other means could.

Display Highly Creditable.

Denmark has never been much of a manufacturing country, principally because it did not have many raw materials. So long as the importation of manufactured goods was easy and cheap there was no advantage in abandoning good agriculture to advance poor manufacturing. Now that the importation of manufactured goods is daily growing more difficult, manufacturing becomes a necessity; but because the raw materials themselves must also be imported, the local production of many articles is still difficult. In face of all these obstacles a creditable display was made, some examples of which are described below:

Machinery.—Engines, steam, kerosene, gasoline, and crude oil, both stationary and marine; machine tools in great variety; saws for metal and wood, particularly bandsaws; ball bearings for automobiles, bicycles, and general purposes in the building of machinery and shafting; pumps, centrifugal and reciprocating; dairy appliances in great variety for butter and cheese; agricultural implements, including plows, fertilizer spreaders (especially for liquid manure), thrashing machines, and hand implements.

Hardware.—Stoves of all sorts to burn peat, lignite, wood, coke, and coal; tools for wood and iron; axes, hatchets, hammers, and chisels. These tools are mostly made of steel of fine quality imported from Sweden.

Automobiles.—One automobile truck made in Denmark was displayed. Many accessories, including rubber goods, were displayed by various exhibitors.

Furniture, Ornamental Metals, and Lighting Equipment.

Furniture.—There were many fine exhibits of Danish-made furniture in both wood and metal. Artistic handwork was especially noticeable. Office furniture is beginning to be made, mostly copies of American designs. American office furniture has heretofore been the rule in the best offices, but now it seems that the freight and other charges equal the entire cost of making the domestic article. As the workmanship on this kind of furniture improves the sale of American office furniture will become more difficult.

Ornamental metals.—Danish gold and silver smiths are noted for fine design and workmanship. Many examples of this work were

shown. Hammered silver is a specialty of this country. Hammered copper utensils and ornamental plaques and shields were shown in large numbers.

Lighting equipment.—Electric fixtures, lamps, and shades were displayed in great variety. New patents were shown for carbide or portable acetylene lamps, as were also attachments for ordinary kerosene lamps that enable them to generate and safely burn acetylene.

Kerosene being no longer obtainable, all new ideas about lighting and even heating and cooking arouse unusual interest. Alcohol is being substituted for kerosene in many instances. There was on display at the Fredericia fair an attachment or new burner for kerosene cooking stoves to enable them to burn alcohol. One spirit lamp was constructed for generating steam for a private Turkish bath. The Association of Danish Alcohol Manufacturers maintained a booth where the new uses of alcohol were explained, especially in connection with the recent law requiring automobiles to mix 80 per cent of alcohol with 20 per cent of gasoline for the purpose of conserving the small amount of gasoline left in the country.

Leather and Other Exhibits—The Oil Problem.

Leather.—Hides and leather are standard products of the country, and, while most of the hides were exported before the war, many more are now being tanned and made up into various articles formerly imported. Tanning materials and processes are being more highly developed, and now fine specimens of all kinds of plain and fancy leather and leather goods are exhibited. Wooden shoes trimmed in various ways with leather are becoming fashionable for farm wear. These combination shoes are much cheaper than all leather and are better than all wood.

Miscellaneous.—Porcelains, ceramics, fire brick, asphalt insulating and waterproofing materials, glass show cases and fancy windows and signs, safety matches, carpets of fiber, grass, wool, and cotton, cotton and woolen cloths and clothing, bulbs, plants and seeds, and brushes for all purposes made from heather (in the absence of the usual coir) were some of the other articles exhibited.

Fredericia, like most Danish villages, has an electric-light plant operated by a Diesel crude-oil engine. The water-works pumps are operated by an electric motor. Thus when the supply of crude oil in the country is exhausted all public utilities are at a standstill. The small amount of oil left in the city is now being conserved for operating the water works. The streets are dark except for a few old lamps using kerosene or whale oil or whatever may be available. Private houses are being lighted by candles. Tallow for making these candles seems to be the only thing of this kind that is now fairly plentiful in Denmark.

MERCHANT MARINE OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC.

[Consul Arthur McLean, Puerto Plata, Sept. 13.]

The merchant marine of the Dominican Republic consists of 1 steamer of 263 tons, 8 schooners of from 73 to 193 tons, and 20 schooners of less than 50 tons. These vessels are engaged principally in the coastwise trade of this Republic, although they make occasional voyages to Cuba, Haiti, St. Thomas, Porto Rico, and Turks Islands.

AGRICULTURE IN THE COLON CONSULAR DISTRICT.

[Consul Julius D. Dreher, Colon, Panama, Sept. 4.]

The consular district of Colon occupies a narrow strip of country bordering on the Caribbean Sea. It extends from the border of Costa Rica to the extreme eastern border of the Province of Colon, a distance of about 350 miles. Its general width varies from 15 to 30 miles. Although its exact limits have never been prescribed it may be assumed to include the Province of Bocas del Toro in the northwest and the Province of Colon in the east, together with those parts of the Provinces of Chiriqui and Veraguas bordering on the Caribbean Sea, a strip about 25 miles in width. The area of the district is about 8,000 square miles, or one-fourth of the total area of the Republic of Panama. According to the census of 1911 the population of the Province of Bocas del Toro was 22,732 and of the Province of Colon 32,092 (including 7,255 Indians), making a total for the two Provinces of 54,824, of whom about one-half live in the city of Colon and the town of Bocas del Toro. There are scarcely any people living in the parts of Chiriqui and Veraguas bordering on the Caribbean. In 1911 the population of the Republic of Panama was 336,742 (including 36,178 Indians).

Hilly Character of the District.

Most of this consular district is very broken, hilly, and mountainous, but much of the land is fertile. There is very little level land except along the seashore and in the narrow valleys of the numerous rivers running down from the mountains to the sea. In Report No. 95 on "The agricultural possibilities of the Canal Zone," issued by the United States Department of Agriculture on March 23, 1912, it is stated that "it appears doubtful whether more than 20 per cent of the surface could be brought under the plow in fields or plots large enough to render horse or mule power practicable." That being the case in the Canal Zone, where there are few considerable elevations, it is safe to say that not more than 15 per cent of the surface of the Colon consular district, or of the Republic of Panama, could be profitably cultivated with plows. No plows are used in this district, and such cultivation of the soil as is common throughout the United States is practically unknown here. The machete is the simple agricultural implement in general use to remove grass, weeds, and bushes in corn fields or patches and in banana, coconut, and sugar-cane plantations.

Hindrances to Development.

Not only are there no plows used in the cultivation of the soil, but nowhere in the district outside of the streets of Colon and Bocas del Toro is there a road for any sort of wheeled vehicle, even a cart. The lack of inland transportation facilities is the greatest hindrance to the development of the country, and the people are expecting much benefit from the opening of military roads in the Republic. Owing to the hilly nature of the country it is expensive to construct roads and also to keep them in order on account of the heavy rains that fall during the greater part of the year. Two goods roads lead out of Colon into the Canal Zone, which is outside of this consular district.

Along the Caribbean shore east of Colon there are a number of good harbors for vessels of no inconsiderable size, which bring the native products to Colon for sale, or for export to the United States. West of Colon for a distance of more than 100 miles there is no harbor worthy the name until Cocoplum Point is reached, and the mouths of the many rivers are filled with sandbars to such an extent that boats drawing more than 4 feet of water can not enter them. During the trade winds for five months of the year it is dangerous to navigate this coast in small boats, and large vessels can not be used at all. A French company which spent considerable money in developing a large tract of land 50 miles west of Colon abandoned the undertaking some 25 years ago because the difficulties of navigation rendered it impossible to market the products of the colony to advantage. The lands have been allowed to grow up in second jungle. And yet it is in the part of this consular district just to the west of the abandoned French colony that land promoters in the United States are most active in disposing of land to American purchasers, who have invested large sums in this part of Panama. A number of these purchasers who came down to see their lands, however, have abandoned them.

Bananas and Coconuts Exported.

Bananas are the most valuable article of export from this district, and from the Republic as a whole. They are grown on the extensive plantations of the United Fruit Co. in the western part of the Province of Bocas del Toro. From these plantations of 29,000 acres the bananas exported in 1916 amounted to 4,649,200 bunches, valued at \$2,370,553. This American corporation controls the banana business in Panama. In carrying on this extensive industry, it has built for its use 248 miles of narrow-gauge railroad, and it has its own fleet of ships especially fitted for the transportation of bananas to United States ports. Although this company uses plows in cultivating bananas in Jamaica and elsewhere, this implement is not employed on its Panama plantations, where the machete is used to keep the ground clear of weeds and bushes. Notwithstanding so little cultivation, many of the bunches of bananas produced on this fertile soil grow too large to be easily handled.

Coconuts rank second in value among the exports from this district, from which 17,873,324 coconuts were exported in 1916, amounting to \$718,280. A considerable proportion of these nuts were raised on the Colombian islands of St. Andrews and Old Providence and brought to Colon to be shipped to the United States. The largest coconut plantation in this district is that of the Bocas del Toro Estate (Inc.), at Cocoplum Point, about 38 miles east of the town of Bocas del Toro. This company owns 8,000 acres of land fronting on the sea for 26 miles. Of this land 1,350 acres have been planted in coconuts, the total number of trees being 85,000, of which nearly 5,000 are in bearing. This large plantation is owned chiefly by an American firm, which has factories in the United States for dessicating and canning coconuts and for manufacturing coconut oil. In the Bocas del Toro district the United Fruit Co. has begun to plant coconuts on lands where the cultivation of bananas had to be abandoned on account of a blight that destroys the plants. This company has recently planted 21,650 coconut trees on 453 acres of land

and expects soon to increase this to 1,000 acres. An American citizen owns near Bocas del Toro a plantation of 15,000 trees, of which 800 are in bearing. On the coast 35 miles east of Colon, in the valley of the Indio River, the Panama Coconut Plantation Co., composed mostly of Americans, owns a tract of 3,000 acres, on which are now growing 53,000 trees, 10,000 of these being about to come into bearing. This is the only large plantation east of Colon, but many individuals own hundreds and some thousands of trees each, and there are many thousands of trees in bearing along the San Blas coasts extending from 60 to 100 miles east of Colon. These coconuts, which are the chief means of support of the San Blas Indians, are said to be the best shipped to New York. As the high price of coconuts for some years has encouraged the planting of the trees, the number exported from this district will be largely increased in the near future.

The Trade in Balata, Tagua Nuts, Cocoa, Indian Corn, Etc.

Crude balata ranks third among the products of agriculture which, in a broad sense, includes forest products. The balata exported from this district last year amounted to 701,320 pounds, valued at \$268,634.

Tagua nuts (vegetable ivory) rank fourth among agricultural products exported from this district in 1916, the amount being 3,869,923 pounds, valued at \$86,929.

The fifth article among agricultural products of export was cocoa (cacao), which is being cultivated to a considerable extent in the Province of Bocas del Toro, where the United Fruit Co. has planted 2,218 acres of abandoned banana lands in this product, the total number of trees set out being 340,000, of which 160,000 are in bearing. Individual owners have probably 50,000 cocoa trees in that district. The exports of cocoa last year amounted to 357,349 pounds, valued at \$43,212.

Although a good deal of sugar is produced in the southern and southwestern portions of Panama, there are only two small sugar cane plantations in this consular district, the cane being grown here only for manufacturing rum for domestic consumption.

Indian corn is raised in a primitive manner by the natives. With a sharpened stick a hole is made in the ground, the seed is dropped and covered, and then the machete is used to cut down the rank growth of grass, weeds, and bushes or sprouts. The ears of corn are usually from one-half to two-thirds of the size common in the United States. Two and even three crops may be raised in the year. A little rice is grown in this district. Kaffir corn, sorghum cane, and millet may be raised. Para and Guinea grasses grow well and make good pasturage for cattle.

Tropical fruits are produced with little or no cultivation—bananas, plantain, breadfruit, pineapples, mangoes, alligator pears (avocado), papaya, oranges, etc. Breadfruit, mangoes, and alligator pears are the fruit of forest trees. In spite of the ease with which tropical fruits may be produced here, the market in Colon and the Canal Zone commissary stores have to depend on other countries for some of these fruits. Bananas are generally plentiful at 10 cents a dozen, but other tropical fruits are dearer than they should be, especially papayas, mangoes, pineapples, and alligator pears. The watermelons produced here are of rather small size but of good flavor.

Vegetables Cultivated.

The West Indian yam (*Dioscorea*) thrives here as in other tropical countries. It is a good substitute for potatoes and forms a principal part of the food of the West Indian negro population in Colon and the Canal Zone. Casava ("yuca") and sweet potatoes do very well; and Irish potatoes might be cultivated on mountain slopes several thousand feet above sea level. Vegetables that do well are string beans, cowpeas, pumpkins, eggplant, okra, spinach, radishes, peppers, and shallots; others that do fairly well are cabbage (in the dry season), lettuce (does not head), tomatoes, cucumbers, turnips, carrots, and beets. Insect pests are troublesome. Notwithstanding the heavy annual rainfall of about 130 inches at Colon, nearly all vegetables need irrigation or watering during the four months of the dry season, January-April. During these months all vegetation suffers to a greater or less extent and grass generally dries up. There are no truck gardens at Colon and no land available for truck farming except in the Canal Zone. In the Zone, where a number of vegetables have been cultivated for years on a small scale, large fields of yams are being cultivated. Efforts are being made to grow other vegetables, as well as tropical fruits, in such quantities as to aid considerably in supplying the commissary stores. The natives in this district pay little or no attention to raising vegetables, except yams, casava, and sweet potatoes.

Besides the native flowers, roses, lilies, hibiscus, geraniums, cockscomb, and bachelor's-buttons are successfully cultivated. Ferns, crotons, and other foliage plants grow luxuriantly.

The Live Stock Industry.

As it is difficult to obtain public lands in sufficient tracts for grazing, cattle are not raised to any large extent in this district. In the Province of Bocas del Toro there are two farms on each of which are about 500 cattle. There is very little dairy farming and fresh milk sells at 25 cents a quart in Colon. No butter is made. Hogs do not thrive very well and the same may be said of poultry; still there are hog and chicken farms in the Canal Zone, where also at Corozal, near Panama, is a hospital farm that furnishes fresh milk to the Ancon and Colon hospitals. Near Colon a large dairy is about to be established in the Canal Zone to supply milk to the commissary stores. Indian corn, Kaffir corn, and milo maize will be grown to make silage to feed the cows. Thousands of beef cattle imported from Colombia are pastured in the Zone.

Possibilities of Further Development.

As it requires a good deal of capital as well as time to produce the principal articles of export which bring money into the country, there is little encouragement to offer settlers on small tracts of land. As has already been indicated in this report, large capital and special equipment are needed to grow bananas for export. Coconut trees begin to bear in five years, but they must be several years older to yield profitable crops. While coconuts grow almost everywhere in Panama, except in mountainous districts, there are not in the Colon consular district many tracts of land suitably situated for coconut plantations. Cocoa trees yield little until they are 5 years old. There is a large demand for the beans or seed of this

tree for manufacturing cocoa and chocolate preparations. Tagua nuts are the fruit of palm trees that grow wild and produce when 5 or 6 years old. Crude balata is obtained by tapping forest trees for their gum, which is in good demand for mixing with rubber and for manufacturing chewing gum.

While there is a good deal of valuable hard timber in Panama, chiefly mahogany, cedar, and cocobolo, the companies that have undertaken to do a lumber business in the Republic have met with small success. It might be somewhat different if good means of transportation were available. Some hardwoods in logs are shipped to the United States.

The business that any part of this district could furnish for a railroad is so small that it does not seem likely that any will be built by private enterprise to develop the country. Hence, there is little expectation that the narrow-gauge road from Charges, near Colon, to Almirante, in Bocas del Toro, an estimated distance of 175 mile, for which a concession has been granted, will be built in the near future.

Efforts to Establish Colonies.

Efforts to establish colonies have not met with much success in this district. Recently, however, West Indian negroes, formerly employed in the Canal Zone, have formed a colony on the Gatun River, just outside the Canal Zone, east of Monte Lirio station on the Panama Railroad. It is said that this settlement already numbers about 1,000 persons; and as they have been accustomed to live in the Tropics there seems to be good reason to expect this colony to succeed. It is possible to locate settlements so as to have good transportation facilities by means of arms of Gatun Lake and the Panama Railroad, which runs three passenger trains each way daily between Panama and Colon, a distance of 48 miles.

Greater Agricultural Development in Southern and Southwestern Panama.

Although the Colon consular district furnished 71.3 per cent of the total value of the exports from the Republic last year, there is more agricultural development proper, or cultivation of the soil, in the southern and southwestern portions of Panama. The most progress seems to have been made in Chiriqui, the most southwestern Province, in which the National Government completed 50 miles of narrow gauge railroad last year to further the development of the country. In that Province various crops are cultivated to a considerable extent and there are large grazing farms for horses and cattle. Increasing quantities of corn, sugar, coffee, and rice are being produced. A strong American company has just settled on a large tract of land there, on which a sugar cane plantation has been started and a mill to manufacture sugar is soon to be built. It may be remarked that for the Tropics Panama has a good and healthful climate, so that American settlers soon become accustomed to it and like it. Except in the mountains the thermometer seldom registers lower than 70° F. and seldom as high as 90° F. even on the coast.

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PROPOSED POSTAL SAVINGS BANK IN URUGUAY.

A bill for the establishment of a postal savings bank is to be considered in the coming extra session of the Uruguayan Congress, according to an announcement in the *Diario Oficial* of August 10. The National Rural Congress at its meeting in July voted to recommend this bill and sent a memorandum to the President, setting forth the need of small savings depositaries in Uruguay, particularly in the country districts, and citing the success of Argentina with the postal savings system.

The report of the postal savings bank of Argentina in April, 1917, after only two years of existence, showed a total of 170,920 depositors and 902 branches throughout the country, with average monthly deposits of about \$225,000. More than \$2,500,000 of the postal savings deposits were invested in bonds of the Argentine internal loan. In view of the financial stress through which the Argentine Republic has been passing since the outbreak of the European war, these figures of savings are significant. Heretofore there has been a notable lack of thrift among the laboring classes in the River Plate, and it is believed that the establishment of postal savings banks, where even the smallest amounts are received, will prove an important step toward improved conditions.

LIGHTHOUSE EMPLOYEES COMMENDED.

The following employees of the United States Lighthouse Service have been commended by the Secretary of Commerce or the Acting Secretary for special services in connection with the saving of life or property:

Bernard B. Meagher, keeper of Smith Island Light Station, Wash., for assistance rendered on September 2, 1917, to the disabled steamer *Samson*, of the Puget Sound Navigation Co., en route from Tacoma, Wash., to Vancouver, British Columbia, in transporting the first officer of that steamer in the station motor boat to the nearest telephone office, a distance of 11 miles. It is noted that the steamer had a crew of 20 men and carried a valuable cargo of general merchandise; that the station boat is small; and that the waters traversed are exposed and otherwise difficult to navigate.

Charles Jonas, keeper of Manitou Light Station, Michigan, for rescuing a disabled motor boat with five occupants, which was drifting on the rocks during a storm, and in towing the launch to the nearest safe harbor.

Jerome M. Robinson, keeper of Calumet Harbor Light Station, Illinois, for assistance rendered to the launch *Bee*, which broke down while passing Calumet Harbor Light Station on August 23, 1917.

Carl G. Marsh, assistant keeper of Newport News Middle Ground Light Station, Virginia, for assistance rendered to five persons in a disabled motor boat near the light station.

JAPAN'S ELECTRICAL INDUSTRIES.

[Extract from Japan Times, forwarded by Consul General George H. Seidmore, Yokohama, Aug. 31.]

The Department of Communications has published the following statement of the condition of the electrical industry in Japan at the end of July, 1917: Plants supplying current, 568 companies with \$160,796,063 capital; electric railways, 42 companies, \$21,706,985 capital; engaged in both branches, 48 companies, \$148,482,339 capital. Compared with the figures for the corresponding period last year there is an increase in the number of enterprises of 35, with an aggregate capital of \$17,892,057.

PROPOSALS FOR GOVERNMENT SUPPLIES AND CONSTRUCTION.

[Correspondence should be direct with the offices named, and specifications and other information can usually be obtained at the points where the goods are to be delivered or the work is to be performed. In cases where the time limit is too short to permit firms to submit tenders, they should ask to be placed on the mailing lists of such offices to receive notices calling for future supplies or work of a similar nature.]

Wooden articles, No. 4804.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Field Medical Supply Depot, United States Army, 21 M Street NE., Washington, D. C., until October 25, 1917, for furnishing and delivering hickory ax helves, boxes for bedpans and urinals, empty white-pine boxes, pack-mule boxes, bread boards, commode chests, cooking-utensil chests, tableware chests, mess chests, sterilizer chests, and field desks.

Oil-storage plants, No. 4805.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Bureau of Yards and Docks, Navy Department, Washington, D. C., until November 5, 1917, for furnishing and installing the piping, pumps, boilers, heaters, buildings, and reservoirs for three fuel-oil storage stations, one at Puget Sound, Wash., one at Mare Island, Cal., and one at San Diego, Cal., and pumps, boilers, piping, heaters, and buildings at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. Refer to Specifications No. 2562.

Building construction, No. 4806.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Coast Guard Headquarters, Navy Department, Washington, D. C., until October 29, 1917, for constructing new buildings and accessories for Coast Guard Station No. 214, Barataria Bay, Grande Isle, La.

Fabrics and textiles, No. 4807.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Field Medical Supply Depot, United States Army, 21 M Street NE., Washington, D. C., until October 22, 1917, for canvas cases for men's belts, canvas cases for dental forceps, canvas emergency cases, cotton pillowcases, pillow sacks, pouches for rubber gloves, and cotton sheets.

Brick building, No. 4808.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Bureau of Yards and Docks, Navy Department, Washington, D. C., until October 15, 1917, for a two-story brick building to be used as a dispensary building at the navy yard, Philadelphia, Pa. Specifications No. 2557.

Construction of lock, No. 4809.—Sealed proposals will be received at the United States Engineer Office, Detroit, Mich., until November 8, 1917, for the construction of timber-crib concrete piers and excavation of channel, east approach for fourth lock, St. Marys Falls Canal, Mich.

JAMAICAN OFFICIAL DESIRES TRADE LITERATURE.

[Consul Charles L. Latham, Kingston, Aug. 30.]

Mr. L. J. Bertram, auditor general of Jamaica, states that he is convinced producer-gas engines would prove an adaptable and economical motor-traction power for the agricultural industries in this island, and he is anxious to procure any compilation that may have been made of the costs and results of such plants and engines. He also is desirous of learning of any efficient devices for eliminating flies from municipal markets.

Mr. Bertram would be glad to receive communications and trade literature on these subjects. In the opinion of the Kingston consulate this is a worth-while opportunity for American manufacturers to get their advertising literature into the hands of persons interested.

OFFICES OF THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE.

DISTRICT OFFICES.

NEW YORK: 734 Customhouse.
BOSTON: 1801 Customhouse.
CHICAGO: 504 Federal Building.
ST. LOUIS: 402 Third National Bank Building.
NEW ORLEANS: 1020 Hibernia Bank Building.
SAN FRANCISCO: 307 Customhouse.
SEATTLE: 848 Henry Building.

COOPERATIVE OFFICES.

CLEVELAND: Chamber of Commerce.
CINCINNATI: Chamber of Commerce.
CINCINNATI: General Freight Agent, Southern Railway, 96 Ingalls Building.
LOS ANGELES: Chamber of Commerce.
PHILADELPHIA: Chamber of Commerce.
CHATTANOOGA: South American Agent, Southern Railway System.
PORTLAND, OREG.: Chamber of Commerce.
DAYTON: Greater Dayton Association.

WASHINGTON: GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1917

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PROHIBITION ON PERFUMERY IN AUSTRALIA.

Consul General Skinner has cabled from London, under date of October 4, that perfumery, as well as perfumed spirits and bay rum, is prohibited from importation into Australia. Perfumery is therefore to be added to the list of goods given in **COMMERCE REPORTS** for August 15.

The official proclamation of the import prohibitions, published in the Australian Gazette and recently received in the Bureau, contains the following complete list:

Ale and other beer, porter, cider, and perry, spirituous, in bulk or in bottle; potable spirits; perfumed spirits and bay rum; biscuits; confectionery; eggs in shell or otherwise; fur apparel; perfumery; jewelry; imitation jewelry and imitation precious stones; bodies for motor vehicles, whether imported separately or forming part of a complete vehicle.

The present proclamation repeals that of May 10, 1916, prohibiting the importation of gold jewelry of a quality standard of 9 carat and over. (see Foreign Tariff Notes No. 21, p. 165). The prohibition on spirits will be enforced so as to admit during the year 1917-18 70 per cent of the amount entered in 1916-17. Modifications of the restrictions on confectionery and parts of automobile bodies in favor of goods from the United States were announced in **COMMERCE REPORTS** for October 3.

DANISH GOVERNMENT REQUISITIONS CEMENT.

Commercial Attaché Thompson reports from Copenhagen that cement is the latest commodity to be taken over by the Danish Government. A special commission has been appointed to take charge of all stocks and to make such deliveries on old contracts as may seem to the best public interest.

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RETURNS FROM ELECTRIC TRAMWAYS OF BUENOS AIRES.

[Special Agent Frederic M. Halsey, Sept. 25.]

The annual report of the *Compania de Tramways Electricos del Sud* of Buenos Aires (Southern Electric Tramways) for the year ended June 30, 1917, indicates that the company earned 1,057,533 paper pesos (paper peso=\$0.4246) as compared with 1,121,893 pesos in 1915-16. The number of passengers carried during 1916-17 totaled 8,286,835 as compared with 8,709,425 the preceding year. Operating expenses for 1916-17 were 1,001,373 pesos against 959,649 pesos in 1915-16.

The report stated that the contract with the *Compania Alemana Transatlantica de Electricidad* (German Electric Co.) which expires in November, 1917, will not be renewed, but that negotiations have been concluded with the new *Compania Italo-Argentina* whereby the latter will furnish power for the period of 15 years. This contract has been made despite the fact that the tramways company will have to spend about 200,000 pesos for the erection of a power station, the laying of new cables, and the making of other alterations to meet new conditions. These necessary changes are now being made.

The falling off of passenger traffic in the district adjacent to the port of Buenos Aires, owing to the smaller movement of ships, was the stated reason for the decline in receipts as compared with former years.

BURWELL S. CUTLER MADE CHIEF OF BUREAU.

The appointment of Burwell S. Cutler, of Buffalo, as Chief of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, has been confirmed by the Senate. Mr. Cutler, who is well known in manufacturing circles in western New York, came into the Bureau six months ago at a nominal salary to assist in putting the organization on a thoroughly business basis. He was made first assistant chief, but since the resignation of Dr. E. E. Pratt has been acting chief.

Mr. Cutler was born in Buffalo and finished his scholastic education at Lake Forest University and Harvard. For 15 years he has been president of an important Buffalo manufacturing concern and has been identified in an official capacity with numerous business houses and civic organizations throughout New York State.

POPULATION OF SANTIAGO DE LOS CABALLEROS.

[Consul Arthur McLean, Puerto Plata, Dominican Republic, Sept. 18.]

The census taken recently gives the total population of Santiago de los Caballeros as 14,744—6,697 males and 8,077 females. The previous census of Santiago was taken in 1904, at which time the city had a population of 10,921 inhabitants.

Santiago is the commercial center of the northern half of the country, and after the capital, Santo Domingo City, it is the largest town in the Dominican Republic.

APPEAL FOR GREATER USE OF BRITISH CANALS.

[Consul E. Haldeman Dennison, Birmingham, Sept. 18.]

The Birmingham Chamber of Commerce, along with other similar organizations of this country, has received a communication from the Canal Control Committee of the Board of Trade calling the attention of manufacturers, etc., to the desirability of making greater use of the inland waterways of the country for the conveyance of goods in order to give relief to the railways, which are finding it increasingly difficult to take care of the transportation needs of the country. By diverting as much traffic as possible from the railways to the canals much relief can be afforded, and shippers are urgently requested to use this method of shipment whenever possible.

The appeal is of special interest to Birmingham, as this district is the center of a considerable network of canals, chiefly in the mining district of South Staffordshire, but also extending into the counties of Warwick and Worcester. The total length of these canals is about 160 miles, exclusive of some 550 basins and short branches. According to the latest statistics available, the annual traffic amounts to about 8,000,000 tons, or two-ninths of the total traffic on all inland navigation of the country. The class of traffic consists principally of coal, most all of which goes to factories located on the banks of the canals themselves. The purpose of the appeal, of course, is to get shippers of other classes of merchandise, as well to make greater use of the canal facilities offered, than they do at present.

COFFEE SITUATION AT MARACAIBO.

[Consul Emil Sauer, Maracaibo, Venezuela, Sept. 3.]

Coffee ordinarily makes up 85 per cent of the value of Maracaibo's exports. The coffee exported from this port in 1916 amounted to 482,244 bags and during the eight months from January 1 to August 31, 1917, to 303,955 bags. These figures do not include coffee shipped to La Guaira and Puerto Cabello where ultimate destination is not given. The lowest point in the exportation of coffee was reached in August this year, when only 17,236 bags were exported, against 41,236 bags in July, 48,552 bags in June, and 58,610 bags in January of this year. The decline in the exports last month is due to the drop in the price.

Coffee on hand in Maracaibo amounted to approximately 246,000 bags on June 30 of this year, to 243,600 bags on July 31, and to 265,600 bags on August 31, 1917. Coffee received at Maracaibo from the interior of Venezuela and from Colombia amounted to 663,554 bags in 1915, to 611,667 bags in 1916, and to 358,848 bags during the first eight months of 1917. (See special report from this office under date of Aug. 18, 1917, entitled "Condition of the Coffee Crop in Western Venezuela" [published in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for Sept. 7, 1917].)

During 1916 there were 3,569,117 sheep, 383,935 large cattle, 3,348,618 lambs, 176,257 hogs, and 28,500 calves slaughtered in New Zealand as compared with 339,570 sheep, 256,000 large cattle, 3,906,458 lambs, 187,971 hogs, and 20,109 calves in 1913.

NEW ZEALAND'S TRADE FOR SIX MONTHS.

[Consul General Alfred A. Winslow, Auckland, Aug. 21.]

Business conditions in general in New Zealand are very satisfactory, notwithstanding the difficulty of getting forward imports either from the United States or Europe, and securing shipping space for exports. The foreign trade has fallen off during the past few months, and the outlook is not promising; but so far imported stocks are not short enough to cause any great inconvenience save in a few lines, such as steel products, hosiery, certain chemicals and drugs, American dried fruits and seedless raisins, safety matches, many lines of hardware, etc. This shortage will be greatly increased in the near future unless American manufacturers can come to the aid of this country, for the list of articles the British Government has prohibited for export has been greatly increased, and it is difficult to get forward the unprohibited lines.

The foreign trade of New Zealand for the first six months of 1917, including specie, is shown in the following table and compared with the like period of 1916:

Countries.	Imports from—		Exports to—	
	Jan.-June, 1916.	Jan.-June, 1917.	Jan.-June, 1916.	Jan.-June, 1917.
United Kingdom.....	\$23,807,452	\$23,986,385	\$78,551,160	\$75,889,773
Canada.....	1,720,979	1,376,372	2,084,551	1,621,289
Australia.....	10,754,756	8,679,811	6,078,380	3,239,050
Belgium.....	10,079	2,015	5	.....
France.....	269,298	93,684	1,338,881	2,297,896
Germany.....	10,225	3,412	24	16
Italy.....	288,068	142,797	102	44
Netherlands.....	145,104	67,668	.....	.....
Sweden.....	203,736	286,305	5	103
China.....	163,079	164,064	170	127
Japan.....	902,750	1,490,838	275,157	6,305
Philippine Islands.....	58,184	40,747	5	784
United States.....	9,258,029	9,367,457	9,371,429	5,014,109
All other countries.....	5,570,361	5,833,662	1,531,639	1,409,349
Total.....	58,251,100	51,535,217	99,231,508	89,478,886

There was a marked gain in the imports from the United States for the March quarter, as compared with last year, or any other previous March quarter; but the June quarter shows a substantial loss, owing largely to the lack of shipping space.

COAL TRADE OF HULL.

[Consul Homer M. Byington, Hull, England, Sept. 8.]

According to the official returns of the Hull coal trade, the total quantity of coal received from the collieries for the month of August, 1917, was 247,462 tons, of which 233,659 tons were conveyed by rail and 13,803 tons by river. The tonnage received from the collieries in August, 1916, was 298,243. Collieries sending 10,000 tons and over were: Action Hall, 11,279 tons; Denaby and Cadeby Main, 27,284 tons; and Dinnington, 10,171 tons. The total arrivals from the collieries in the period January-August, 1917, were 1,936,382 tons, as compared with 2,212,732 tons in the corresponding eight months of 1916.

CORN PRICES IN SAN LUIS POTOSÍ.

[Consul Cornelius Ferris, jr., San Luis Potosí, Mexico, Sept. 21.]

In the city of San Luis Potosí corn is purchased by wholesale dealers by the carga, or double hectoliter; a carga in this State being equal to 138 to 140 kilos (304.2 to 308.6 pounds). There are no regular market quotations or authoritative sources of information regarding prices, and no sources of information whatever as to the amount of production or quantity consumed in this State.

Statements as to current prices vary considerably, some dealers giving 37 to 38 pesos per carga of 140 kilos while others give from 36 to 50 pesos per carga of 138 kilos. (At normal exchange the peso is worth approximately 50 cents United States currency, but at present exchange is fluctuating.) The former is probably nearer correct for this date. Two days ago a leading corn merchant here quoted 37.50 pesos per carga of 140 kilos, retail, for inferior grade, 38 for good, and 39 for American corn. (Information has just been received that this dealer has closed down his sales of corn, the foregoing rates being now unprofitable.) The prices stated are for the city of San Luis Potosí. In the country districts they are a little higher.

Two months ago prices were 22 and 23 pesos per carga of 140 kilos. In San Luis Potosí prices are uniformly a little higher than in Mexico City, 12 kilos (26.5 pounds) less per carga in San Luis Potosí being commonly considered necessary to equalize the difference.

Imports of American Corn.

It is roughly estimated that 90 per cent of the corn at present sold in the city of San Luis Potosí is imported from the United States. This season's crop in the State of San Luis Potosí will be negligible, on account of the lack of rain and unsettled conditions discouraging to industry. During the months of November and December corn will be brought in from the States of Jalisco, Colima, Michoacan, and Guanajuato, when prices may fall to 34 pesos per carga of 140 kilos. It is believed that when corn is available from those four States the supply imported from the United States will form about 30 per cent of the amount consumed. The American corn imported is No. 2 white.

Since the beginning of revolutionary disturbances the production of corn in the State of San Luis Potosí has fallen to about 25 per cent of that of former years. But in the present year it is stated that for crops of all kinds the production in this State will be about 50 per cent of the normal amount.

Under normal conditions prices of corn were, according to one dealer, about 8 pesos per carga of 138 kilos; according to another dealer they were about 9.50 pesos per carga of 140 kilos.

Publication of New Zealand Monthly Trade Statistics Discontinued.

Consul General Alfred A. Winslow reports from Auckland under date of September 3 that the New Zealand Government has discontinued publishing until the close of the war the detailed monthly statistics of trade.

PAPER AND PAPER PULP MAKING IN INDIA.

[Consul Lucien Memminger, Madras.]

Owing to the difficulty and high cost of importing paper and pulp into India at present, increased attention is being paid to projects to establish mills for the manufacture of paper from bamboos and grasses in various parts of the country. This consulate has received an application from a firm in the Native State of Cochin requesting to be put in touch with American manufacturers of paper-making machinery as it is proposed to establish a mill in that State manufacturing 200 tons of pulp weekly from bamboos. Another plant is proposed at Tadasa in the Native State of Mysore, which, in the opinion of an expert appointed by the Mysore Economic Conference to make an investigation, is a suitable place for erecting a mill with an annual output capacity of 5,000 tons. In the meantime a Government expert has made a report that Shimoga, in Mysore, is a suitable place for starting a bamboo-pulp factory.

Government Aid for a Paper Mill at Travancore.

With the aid of the Madras Government efforts are being made to resume operations at the paper pulp mills at Punalur, Travancore, started 30 years ago with assistance from the Travancore Government, but which after operating for about three years at a heavy loss were closed and then passed to various interests. An expert of the Travancore Government rendered an opinion that the mills were unsuited for making white paper and that only brown paper could be profitably manufactured, but it was subsequently thought that the demand for brown paper would not be sufficient to make even the manufacture of this kind profitable. Shortly after the beginning of the war the owner approached the Madras Government for assistance and the Government offered expert advice and agreed to pay a portion of the cost of the management of the mills. As the mills had been standing idle for 25 years there was considerable preliminary work. They were then operated until July, 1916, when the boiler was found to be worn out and the owner is now installing a new one.

The attention of a large firm in Scotland was attracted to the possibility of manufacturing paper pulp from bamboos. It sent a representative to Madras and after a detailed investigation found that from South Malabar its demand of 20,000 tons of air-dry bamboos annually could be easily met.

Although suitable species of timber for paper manufacture are available in India (chiefly Himalayan spruce and silver fir) they can not at present be extracted at sufficiently cheap rates. To overcome this difficulty the paper maker has had to resort to importing wood pulp, which is expensive, and to preparing his own half stuff from grass and waste products, thus combining the art of paper making with that of preparing pulp from indigenous raw materials. For 50 years the manufacture of paper in India has been a well-established if not a large industry. It is carried on side by side with that of paper pulp.

Leading Paper Mills.

The largest paper mills belong to the Titaghur Paper Mill Co. (Ltd.), which runs two mills, one at Titaghur, Bengal Presidency,

and the other and newer mill at Kankinara, with a combined output of over 15,000 tons of paper per annum. A mill at Raneeaganj, 125 miles from Calcutta on the East Indian Railway, owned by the Bengal Paper Mill Co. (Ltd.), turns out about 6,700 tons of paper annually, and the third largest mill in India is at Lucknow with an outturn of about 2,500 tons of paper, and is owned by the Upper India Paper Mill Co. (Ltd.). The only mill working in Western India is situated near Poona; it has a capacity of a little over 1,000 tons of paper per annum and is owned by the Deccan Paper Mills Co. (Ltd.). There is also a paper mill in the Gwalier State, which is not in operation at present.

The present demand for paper is supplied by the mills mentioned above, by imports, and to a small extent by hand-made paper prepared locally. Of the total demand the Indian paper mills produce, in normal times, about 25,000 tons, which during the war has risen to nearly 30,000 tons.

Imports of Paper—Raw Material.

The imports of paper and pasteboards into India in 1914-15, exclusive of note paper and envelopes, amounted to 51,390 tons, valued at \$3,452,159, or including note paper, at a total of \$4,279,104. The demand for paper in India may, therefore, be put at about 75,000 tons per annum, of which the country supplies one-third. In the prewar year, 1912-13, India imported no less than 13,250 tons of pulp, while in 1914-15 the amount fell to 4,630 tons owing to its prohibitive cost and to shipping difficulties; but in spite of this fact the output of paper from Indian mills increased in 1914-15 by at least 5,000 tons, a fact which it is said indicates the possibilities of expanding the output even when the difficulties of obtaining chemicals are abnormal.

The most important raw material used in India at present for the production of raw stuff is sabai, bhabar, or baib grass, *Ischoemum angustifolium*, which is obtained from the forests of Bengal, Chota Nagpur, Orissa, Nepal, and the United Provinces. The other materials used in India for the manufacture of paper are rags of poor quality, hemp, jute, gunny bags, waste paper, and old ropes. Since the war began, limited quantities of munj grass, *Seccharum Munj*, have been used, though the yield of pulp from this grass is not high while in many parts of the country its value is considerable, owing to the demand for other purposes.

AMERICAN FOWLS IN ARGENTINA.

[Lew B. Clark, clerk to commercial attaché, Buenos Aires.]

At Toledo, a small station on the Central Uruguayan Railway, the Argentine Government maintains a nursery and either gives away or sells at actual cost very young trees for transplanting. In connection with this forest nursery a poultry culture farm is maintained, which is a center of interest to the surrounding country, and all the well-known American breeds of fowl are prominently displayed in fairly large numbers. The station is not so well equipped as it might be with the facilities for the propagation and care of the fowl, and it is stated that if American manufacturers of aviculture equipment would supply catalogues of their products to local houses they could very likely do some business.

THE SOUTH AFRICAN OSTRICH INDUSTRY.

[Consul E. A. Wakefield, Port Elizabeth, Aug. 4.]

Only four years ago the ostrich was the most pampered and highly valued possession of many South African farmers. Now there is little interest even in the most perfect of these birds.

In 1911, 1912, and 1913 lucerne lands suitable for ostriches, with a good water supply, were selling at remarkably high figures. A pair of the best breeding ostriches easily sold for \$5,000. Super prime feathers (i. e., perfect white wing feathers from the cock bird) brought \$120 to \$140 a pound on the public market in South Africa. To-day the best feathers produced could probably be purchased for \$50 or \$60 a pound.

It was in the late sixties that the commercial aspect of the ostrich plume presented itself to the South African farmer. It is probable that the birds had been domesticated on some few farms for many years previous to that time, but about the period mentioned feathers began to be exported to London and thus became a commercial commodity. From a very small beginning the business developed into a trade amounting to millions of dollars annually, but met with a check in 1914 and now there is an almost complete cessation of demand for feathers.

Life on an Ostrich Farm.

It is difficult to imagine a more ideal existence than that lived by many of the ostrich farmers in the heyday of prosperity. South Africa is properly called "The Land of Sunshine," and except for a brief period in the summer the weather is rarely too hot for comfort. The majority of ostrich farmers are Dutch or of Dutch descent, who naturally prefer country life and open spaces.

With the actual care and management of the birds the farmer himself has little to do, as black help is fairly plentiful and wages are low. The average ostrich farmer takes early morning coffee, after which he supervises affairs about the homestead. Following this comes the hearty breakfast to which all are accustomed. Later it is probable that the farmer will take a survey from the back of a horse of such portions of his farm as need his attention, after which he returns to the stoep (stoop or veranda) where more coffee and a prolonged smoke are usually enjoyed.

When the feather business was at its height farmers gave practically no attention to crops other than the lucerne and mealies that were essential ostrich foods. Even the vegetables required for home consumption were purchased by many ostrich farmers.

As buck and small deer and game birds are found on many of the farms, shooting parties are of comparatively frequent occurrence. This, with his occasional trips to town and interchange of visits with friends, constitutes the usual recreation of the South African ostrich farmer. His home is usually comfortable and frequently quite imposing. Automobiles are very commonly used in most farming sections.

The Ostrich a Peculiar Bird.

The ostrich is a peculiar bird in several ways. One of the widely circulated stories credits it with burying its head in the sand when frightened. I have seen many frightened ostriches but never one with its head in the sand. When disturbed, except in the mating

season, it immediately proceeds to put as much ground as possible between itself and the disturber. Ostriches run with great speed, easily keeping in front of the fastest horses. That they really are frightened is proved by the fact that, in attempting to escape, they frequently collide with barbed-wire fences or other obstacles, with serious results to themselves.

During the mating season ostriches are decidedly dangerous, attacking a man without hesitation. One kick from the bird's foot is usually sufficient to put any ordinary individual out of action, and several deaths from this cause have been reported. During the nesting period the male and female sit upon the eggs alternately. Broods of 8 to 15 chicks are usual from a sitting of 16 or 18 eggs. Incubators are also much used. Ostriches are fed upon alfalfa and mealies, but they pick up a good proportion of their food on the veldt.

Classification of Feathers.

On full-grown birds feathers are generally classified as wings, tails, and body feathers. These general classes are graded into numerous varieties to which different names are given. The best long white plumes from the wing of the male bird are termed whites or primes. The latter term is particularly applicable to the best quality whites. Similar feathers from the female are termed feminas; these are white plumes the same as those from the male, but are usually smaller and generally inferior.

The top row of wing feathers consists of wing blacks or plumes, which are white and black on males and white and gray on females. These are termed byocks or fancies. The second row consists of the whites, or primes, previously mentioned and are the finest produced. The third-row feathers on males are called long blacks, and on females grays. Feathers from under the wing are called floss; body feathers, blacks and drabs or drabby grays; and the tail feathers are called tails or boos.

There have been previous slumps in ostrich-feather prices, but none so serious or so long-continued as the present one. Traders have been fairly optimistic as to the future until just recently, but now they are willing to admit that the outlook is anything but encouraging. Nevertheless the ostrich feather will come back; it is too beautiful to be long neglected.

CHRISTIANIA'S BANK DEPOSITS SHOW LARGE INCREASE.

[Commercial Attaché Erwin W. Thompson, Copenhagen, Denmark.]

Christiania's (Norway) monthly statistical publication shows that the 10 largest banks in the city received deposits during the first half of 1917 aggregating \$157,000,000, or 43 per cent more than in the corresponding period of last year. New corporations to the number of 288 have been organized with a combined capital of \$24,000,000, besides a capital stock increase of 97 old companies amounting to \$16,000,000.

Det Nordiske Export and Import Co., which was organized in Christiania in January, 1917, with capital stock of \$134,000, has increased its capital to \$884,000.

A new forwarding company named "Intersped" has been incorporated in Christiania with capital stock of \$268,000. N. M. Nilsen is president.

IMITATION LEATHER IN THE ANTILLES.**BRITISH WEST INDIES.**

[Consul Henry D. Baker, Trinidad.]

Dealers in Trinidad might be interested in the sale of imitation leather if its advantages were adequately brought to their attention. When it has been used in connection with motor cars, carriages, and furniture, however, apparently it has been directly ordered from America by prospective users without reference to dealers here. One local firm stated that imitation leather might be much more largely used in Trinidad with great advantage for upholstering furniture, for table tops, motor-car covers and seats, and especially for the re-covering of automobile tops.

Apparently there is a conservative prejudice against the use of any leather which is not real, but such prejudice could probably be broken down if the durability of this leather and its cheapness compared with real leather were demonstrated to users.

Compelled to Buy Entire Tanned Hide.

Ordinarily if some repair job requiring new leather has to be done here, an entire tanned hide is purchased at a cost of about \$10, and this is cut up to meet the requirements, but much of the hide may have to be wasted. On the other hand, imitation leather might be purchased by the yard, so that practically all of it would be used. Comparing the cost of good grades of American imitation with real leather as used here, it would seem as if two-thirds of the present cost of real leather material might be saved, besides eliminating the waste. The price of real leather here shows a constantly advancing tendency, and the use of the imitation as desirable now, and perhaps a necessity for the future, seems to be just beginning to receive the attention of dealers. It is apparent also that wherever glazed leather is now used, as on carriage fenders, imitation leather would be much more suitable in this climate, for glazed leather very quickly cracks under the tropical sun and moist conditions.

The use of motor cars in this island is steadily increasing, and there are now probably 800 of them here, all of which will eventually require new leather coverings. The population of the island, which is more than 360,000, is generally prosperous, and leather goods are consumed to a generous extent. As there are no manufactures here of any importance which require the use of leather, most of the articles containing leather being imported, the chief use of the imitation material would be for repair and recovery work on articles already imported, and not for their original manufacture.

Duty on Imported Imitation Leather.

Articles not specified, including imitation leather, pay a duty of 10 per cent ad valorem.

As regards the protection of patented American imitation leather, there need be no fear of interference, for the use here would not be sufficient to justify local manufacture. Consequently there would seem to be no need of patenting the article in the island.

The largest department store in Trinidad already has asked for samples of American imitation leather on account of the high cost of real leather. The dealers here who might be interested in handling

this line would probably either buy through their agents in New York, paying cash there, or if ordering direct, would pay on receipt of shipping documents.

[A list of dealers in Trinidad who might be interested in imitation leather may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 90124.]

MARTINIQUE.

[Consul Thomas R. Wallace, Fort de France.]

A mercantile firm in Martinique states that it imports imitation leather from the United States, to be used for buggy tops and rain aprons on vehicles. Furniture in Martinique is not upholstered, and seats and backs are made principally of wood, rattan, or rushes. Very few pieces, if any, have leather or imitation-leather seats and backs.

There is a small number of repair shops and minor factories which might employ this fabric for the tops and cushions of vehicles more generally. Shoes are made in considerable quantities in Martinique, and if the imitation leather could be substituted or employed for parts of shoes, an important demand would be created.

Active Sales Campaign Required.

An active sales campaign in the district should be made by intelligent agents to introduce the fabric to the trade. Manufacturers might combine to create a joint agency and divide the expense of placing the goods on the markets. A single manufacturer could not afford this, nor would it be fair for him to shoulder the entire burden of creating a market, while others would obtain equal benefits from his action.

It is difficult to get a good agent here with the expectation of his pushing the business on a commission basis, unless he is assured of handling the entire sales of the commodity. After the fabric has been introduced and proved available, sales could be made direct to the shops by the manufacturer in case a general agency had not been established.

Credit terms are largely a matter of individual agreement in business transactions in Martinique. Imports from America which involve large sums are through commission houses or manufacturers' agents, by firms which have an established credit or make cash payments. Orders from merchants are usually paid for in advance of shipment, but this is not satisfactory, although few complaints have been received concerning such orders, especially from reliable firms. Merchants import their own stocks and supplies. The orders in most cases are for small amounts and are accompanied with cash. The principal considerations with first-class houses are price and quantity, and long terms of credit would not counterbalance such considerations in deciding between two competing lines.

Methods of Payment for Goods.

The merchant with an established credit expects to remit by return steamer for goods purchased. In some cases the payment is delayed for two or three mails. As the vessel leaves here every 2 or 3 weeks, both for Europe and the United States, the credit period would not extend beyond 60 days. The import business of the island with

other countries is transacted much the same as with the United States, although sales to a small extent are made on open credit and through French commission houses which have samples and brands displayed for inspection, while the merchants do their buying in France.

The acceptance of a time draft is seldom recorded before the surrender of the bill of lading that corresponds to a shipment. Guaranties are not required.

One of the difficulties met with in the trade between the United States and Martinique arises from the method of financing. Practically all of the products of Martinique are taken by France; the amount exported to the United States, while increasing, is very small. The imports from the United States are very large, constituting more than 50 per cent of the entire amount received by the island. Credit facilities are limited, and attended with much inconvenience. Drafts on New York are issued by the bank one day for each outgoing mail. The full amount applied for must be deposited at the bank the day before. The next day the bank delivers to each applicant a proportion of its available New York funds, in the form of drafts—sometimes the whole amount asked for, sometimes 25 per cent, etc., and the balance is refunded.

Governed Under the French Laws.

The tariff rate on ordinary artificial leather is 105 francs per 100 kilos, which is equivalent to \$9.19 per 100 pounds.

The law applying to trade-mark and patent protection is the same as in France. Martinique is governed under the French laws. Applications for trade-mark registration and for patents may be made to the authorities at Martinique, but they are transmitted from here to Paris for final action.

[Lists of dealers and possible importers of imitation leather in Martinique may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 89150.]

HAITI.

[Consul John B. Torres, Port au Prince.]

Imitation leather is unknown in Haiti. All of the principal dealers in leather are of the opinion that the article must be given a trial before it would be possible to form an idea as to its ultimate success. The high price of natural leather in the United States furnishes a possibility in favor of a trade being established, with the prospect of a certain degree of success. It would be necessary to have a good supply of samples of all colors and grades, so that consumers may be able to make selections.

One possible way to introduce the article would be to send a representative with a full supply of samples, carrying not less than 60 yards of each color, although this would necessitate a heavy expense. Again, a representative might be found here and be furnished with a good supply of not less than 60 yards of the different colors. He would be able to introduce the article and judge what success it might possibly meet with in this market after a fair trial.

Imitation leather is not specified in the Haitian tariff, and would probably be dutiable at the general rate of 20 per cent ad valorem,

increased by surtaxes to about 22.3 per cent ad valorem. There are no trade-mark laws in Haiti.

The terms of credit are from 60 to 90 days. This should be left to the representative, but great care is needed in making credit arrangements. Packing should be the same as for all similar goods, with an allowance for rough handling.

[A list of possible importers of imitation leather at Port au Prince, Haiti, may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 90400.]

ITALIAN DECLARATIONS OF STOCKS OF PRESERVED EGGS.

[Consul General David F. Wilber, Genoa, Aug. 21.]

The Gazzetta Ufficiale published at Rome August 16, 1917, contains a decree of the Commissary General for Supply and Consumption of Provisions in regard to the declaration of stocks of preserved poultry eggs. The decree provides:

Whoever on the date of August 25, 1917, has in his possession preserved poultry eggs, either in lime, cold storage, or preserved by any other system, must make a declaration to that effect on the days from the 26th to the 31st of that month. The declaration must contain the following particulars:

- (a) Commune in which the storehouse is situated.
- (b) Quantity of eggs possessed, expressed in thousands, and stating distinctly those in lime, in cold storage, or otherwise preserved.
- (c) Name, surname, and address of declarer.
- (d) If, and for what amounts, contracts for the sale of the preserved goods have been made and with what persons or firms (specifying the quantities for each).

To Be Received By Mayor or His Representative.

The declaration must be presented at the municipal office of the particular commune in which the eggs are stored. It shall be received by the mayor or by a delegate from him. It may be made verbally, but in that case the officer receiving it shall put it into writing. In every case a receipt for the declaration must be given to the declarer.

Whenever the officer who receives the declarations shall have cause to think that they do not correspond with the truth, he shall demand that the verifications necessary be made by officers or agents of the police.

The declarations received by the communes, accompanied by a recapitulation, must be transmitted to the prefectures of the respective Provinces within the day of September 5. Whenever the result of the declaration is negligible notice of it must be given just the same.

Transmission to Commissary General.

In the five successive days the prefectures shall transmit integrally to the Commissariat General for Supply and Consumption the declarations and the recapitulation received from the communes.

Whosoever fails to make the declaration according to the established terms, or makes it incorrectly, shall be punished by imprisonment of a month to a year and by a fine up to 5,000 lire (\$965).

Furniture and Other Fittings for a New University Building.

A special agent of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce reports that a new university building is to be erected in one of the cities of South America, and that the necessary fittings, consisting of laboratory furniture, school seats, and other equipment will be purchased as soon as the building is completed. American manufacturers interested should send catalogues, price lists, etc., in Spanish, to the address on file at the Bureau or its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 1284.

ADEN AS A MARKET FOR MATCHES.

[Consul Addison E. Southard, Aden, Arabia, Aug. 2.]

During 1916 Aden's imports of matches amounted to 250,224 gross valued at \$96,670. For the three years prior to 1916 the annual imports averaged only \$21,000 in value. This large increase to nearly five times the average annual imports is partially accounted for by the presence in this district at various times during the year of considerable numbers of troops. On the other hand local dealers assert that the normal use of matches in the district is increasing.

Most of the matches used here are of the safety variety. Wax vestas have been sold in the past but in several retail shops visited no matches of this kind were found in stock. Some phosphorus and other classes of matches are sold in small quantities.

This market is at present well supplied with matches, but the prices have increased considerably.

Austrian, Swedish, and Japanese Matches.

Austrian matches were at one time almost the only kind used in Aden. They were of satisfactory quality and quite cheap. The bulk of the matches now used are Swedish. Owing to the uncertainty in securing supplies of Swedish matches, Japanese manufacturers have been able recently to place considerable quantities of their matches in Aden. The Swedish matches are usually obtained through commission houses in England and the Japanese through commission houses in India.

A popular brand of Swedish matches, which two years ago could be landed in Aden at a cost of 40 rupees (\$12.98) per case of 50 gross, now costs 100 rupees (\$32.44) per case landed. These matches come a dozen boxes to the package. A box measures 2 by 1½ inches and contains an average of 75 matches. A package of a dozen boxes retails for a fraction more than 6 cents and one box is sold for 1½ pice (three-fourths of a cent). The normal retail price is 4 cents per package of a dozen boxes and one-half of a cent for a single box.

The Japanese matches imported are packed in cases of 75 gross, and although normally cheaper they have closely followed the Swedish in price. Local dealers say that each time the price of Swedish matches is raised the commission houses in India handling Japanese matches arbitrarily raise their prices. The more brightly colored box of the Japanese matches appeals to the native consumer, but he complains that the boxes are too frail and do not stand carrying around so well as the Austrian or Swedish box. Many local dealers have large stocks of Japanese matches either in Aden or in India which they secured at lower prices than those at which the Swedish are now obtainable, and accordingly the retail price of the former kind is somewhat lower. A package of a dozen boxes of Japanese matches can still be bought locally for 4 cents and a single box for one-half cent.

American Participation in Trade.

In view of the fact that a majority of the people in this district are great tobacco smokers and the further fact that candles or kerosene lamps are used almost exclusively for lighting purposes, the match market is and will continue to be of importance. It is not thought that American manufacturers can compete with the low prices at

which the Austrian, Swedish, and Japanese matches can be sold here, but in view of a possible interest in this comparatively important market a list of the principal importers has been compiled and may be had upon application to the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district and cooperative offices by referring to file No. 93166.

There would seem to be no reason to believe that the ordinary friction match widely used in the United States could be successfully introduced here. The native is accustomed to buying his matches in a little box which can be conveniently carried about in a pocket or in a fold of the various styles of garments which he wears. Size appeals to him and a safety match to compete with those already on the market should be slightly longer and come in boxes somewhat larger, although not necessarily containing a larger number of matches. As in many other articles of merchandise where colors can be used to advantage an indigo-colored paper used on the match boxes would make them more attractive, particularly to the Arab.

A style of package and matches designed especially for the Aden market would be equally popular in many other districts of this part of the world where the Arab population predominates or is present in large numbers. Aden is a free port and there would be no customs duties to consider in placing matches in this market. The local landing charge for a case of matches is 6 cents.

NEW IRRIGATION PROJECT IN HAWAII.

[A. P. Taylor, correspondent, Honolulu.]

An irrigation project which will produce a daily volume of 50,000,000 gallons of water for use on the lands of the Pioneer Plantation near Lahaina, Island of Maui, Hawaiian Islands, will be completed within a year. It is called the Hanokowai Tunnel, and operations were commenced several months ago. The main tunnel is to be $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles long. The purpose of the project is to employ all the freshest water available for the company's irrigation system, conserving many million gallons which now go to waste.

The tunnel cuts across five ridges and will also replace a long metal flume. There will be a diversion tunnel 1,000 feet long, with a capacity of 25,000,000 gallons, to carry part of the flood to the main tunnel. The latter is to be lined with concrete. Construction is being carried on with a 2-inch air train, and mucking is being done by electric locomotives. The new flow of water will allow further improvement and development of the Pioneer's hydroelectric system.

Additional construction work in Pioneer is the making over of $1\frac{1}{4}$ miles of metal flume into a concrete ditch, while all wooden bridges over the main ditches are being replaced with concrete structures.

OFFICES OF THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE.

DISTRICT OFFICES.

NEW YORK: 734 Customhouse.
BOSTON: 1461 Customhouse.
CHICAGO: 504 Federal Building.
ST. LOUIS: 402 Third National Bank Building.
NEW ORLEANS: 1020 Hibernia Bank Building.
SAN FRANCISCO: 307 Customhouse.
SEATTLE: 348 Henry Building.

COOPERATIVE OFFICES.

CLEVELAND: Chamber of Commerce.
CINCINNATI: Chamber of Commerce.
CINCINNATI: General Freight Agent, Southern Railway, 96 Ingalls Building.
LOS ANGELES: Chamber of Commerce.
PHILADELPHIA: Chamber of Commerce.
CHATTANOOGA: South American Agent, Southern Railway System.
PORTLAND, OREG.: Chamber of Commerce.
DAYTON: Greater Dayton Association.

FOREIGN PURCHASES BY JAPANESE GOVERNMENT RAILWAYS.

[Commercial Agent Frank Rhea.]

The following table shows the purchases of the Imperial Railways during the last seven years. The statistics for the years 1910-11 to 1914-15 are from the annual report for the year ended March 31, 1915, while those for the last two years have been specially prepared and have not been published heretofore.

Years.	Home purchases.	Foreign purchases.	Total.	Proportion of foreign purchases to total.
				<i>Per cent.</i>
1910-11.....	\$13,964,009	\$3,252,033	\$17,216,042	18.0
1911-12.....	16,305,080	3,649,118	20,454,198	17.8
1912-13.....	18,071,301	3,025,658	21,096,959	14.3
1913-14.....	15,030,057	1,444,347	16,474,414	8.8
1914-15.....	18,893,084	804,991	19,798,075	4.1
1915-16.....	17,108,784	1,601,578	18,773,362	8.5
1916-17.....	18,955,858	2,595,214	21,551,072	12.4

The only year for which details are available is 1914-15, when the principal items purchased abroad were as follows: Wheels and axles for vehicles, \$273,635; finished steel girders, \$138,346; electric machines and materials, \$104,036; copper wire and No. 8 galvanized wires, \$69,332; finished springs, \$53,795; tires for vehicles and locomotives, \$40,780; iron and steel, \$34,373; tools and machines, \$23,377.

In the annual report of the Imperial Government Railways of Japan for 1914-15 this statement occurs:

The attention of the authorities had long been directed to the importance of superseding imports by home products. Apart from the growth of domestic industry which has gradually come to meet the multifarious requirements of the railways, the policy of self-sufficiency had recently begun to recommend itself with greater urgency than ever in view of the conditions surrounding Japanese finance and economy in general. The best endeavors have, therefore, been used in this particular direction, with the result that the amount of foreign purchases has shown a marked decrease.

It will be noted from the above table that since this statement was made the percentage of foreign purchases has ceased to decline and has, on the contrary, shown a decided increase. The proportion of foreign purchases to the total in 1916-17 was three times as large as in 1914-15.

CATALOGUES DESIRED BY MANUFACTURER IN URUGUAY.

A manufacturer of woolen goods in Uruguay desires to be supplied with the latest catalogues of American firms making machinery of all kinds used in the woolen industry, motor and electrical equipment, and motor trucks. All literature should be sent post prepaid in the open mail, as there are many delays incident to mail deliveries by parcel post. The accompanying correspondence should be in Spanish.

[The name of this firm may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district or cooperative offices by referring to file No. 2652.]

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No. 235

Washington, D. C., Monday, October 8

1917

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AMERICAN PURCHASES OF KAURI GUM FROM NEW ZEALAND.

[Consul General Alfred A. Winslow, Auckland.]

The export of kauri gum to the United States for the six months ended June 30, 1917, amounted to 4,094,877 pounds valued at \$610,495, as compared with 4,993,900 pounds valued at \$756,058 for the first six months of 1916. There is a poor outlook for this industry for the next few months, because of lack of help to gather the gum and a shortage of shipping space to get it forward.

SHOULD OBTAIN EXPORT LICENSE BEFORE LOADING GRAIN.

The Exports Administrative Board has transmitted a statement of the following tenor to all of the seaboard terminal grain elevators:

The Exports Administrative Board wishes to impress upon the owners of grain elevators the necessity of discontinuing the loading of vessels with grain for export before the shipper procures the necessary export license, and the Board herewith makes the announcement that no further cargoes should be loaded until such license for export shall have been presented.

Licenses for the export of food grains are issued only with the approval of the Food Administration, and every effort is being made to subject such exports to the strictest control. Cases are of frequent occurrence where vessels are loaded with grain and the Exports Administrative Board is unable to grant the necessary export license. This results in rendering useless a considerable amount of tonnage in the loss of large quantities of grain by deterioration and in the additional expense of unloading.

COAL TO CANADA VIA LAKE ERIE PORTS.

The Exports Administrative Board, at the request of the United States Fuel Administrator, has announced that all shipments of coal to Canada via Lake Erie ports from this date on will require an individual license for each shipment, instead of being permitted, as heretofore, under the special license issued through the customs service, which allowed coal to go to Canada in unlimited quantities. Since the issue of the proclamation of August 27, 1917, individual licenses for export to all other countries have been required for coal, so that in this respect there is no change in regulations.

DEPARTMENT EXHIBIT AT COMMERCIAL CONGRESS.

Six of the bureaus of the Department of Commerce will have an exhibit at the Southern Commercial Congress, which is to be held in New York City at the Hotel Astor October 15 to 17, 1917. In connection with the Southern Commercial Congress Convention the Southern States will hold an exhibit which will be adjoining that of the Commerce exhibit on the Belvedere floor of the Astor. The Southern States exhibit will last from October 13 to 20, and it is the intention of the Department of Commerce to keep their exhibit intact during this period.

The subdivisions of the department participating are the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, the Bureau of the Census, the Bureau of Fisheries, the Bureau of Lighthouses, the Steamboat-Inspection Service, and the Coast and Geodetic Survey.

The exhibit of the Bureau of Fisheries will deal largely with showing the work done in the past few years in developing new sea food, many species of which heretofore unknown to the American public have recently been placed on sale throughout the country as a result of the efforts of this Bureau. Samples of these new foods will be shown. In addition it will have a small exhibit of the pearl-button industry of the Mississippi Valley, and examples of the utilization of skins of aquatic animals, showing finished leathers made from skins of the whale, porpoise, shark, sea elephant, etc. It will also have in its exhibit several of the instruments used by it in oceanographic investigations.

To Show Samples and Publications.

The exhibit of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce will consist largely of a collection of cotton goods and wearing apparel from the Far East and South America; shoes from South America, Cuba, and the West Indies; unique implements used in various countries of the world; and possibly a large collection of general hardware supplies, and publications showing the work being done in foreign fields for the extension and upbuilding of American commerce.

The Bureau of the Census exhibit will be mainly charts and publications showing the different industries with the value of the products stated in quantities and dollars. It will have charts dealing with mortality statistics, the locations of various large industries throughout the country, and a great deal of other material of a statistical nature.

The exhibit of the Bureau of Lighthouses will in part include a universal flashing lens and lantern, similar to that in use along the Atlantic and Pacific coasts, which will be kept in motion and lighted. In addition to this will be shown the ordinary five-day lens lantern, and eight-day post lantern, which are used along our gulf and river shores, with various models of light vessels and light tenders; maps, drawings, models of different types of buoys; models of lighthouse tenders and lighthouses, etc.

Features of Marine Inspection.

The Steamboat-Inspection Service exhibit will be of particular interest at this time, and will be one of the largest at the congress. It will consist of instruments of all kinds used by the service in the

inspection of hulls, boilers, fire-fighting and life-saving equipment, with models of lifeboats, life rafts, line-carrying gun, rocket and outfit, life preservers, etc. It will also show condemned life preservers, fire equipment, boiler plates, planking, etc., and fusible plugs that failed to fuse; one of which by its failure to fuse resulted in the death of 11 persons through the sinking of the steamship *Jefferson*. Publications, photographs, and statements will also be shown by the bureau, in order more clearly to illustrate its work and functions.

The exhibit of the Coast and Geodetic Survey will consist largely of instruments used by the survey in its work of surveying our coasts and placing of bench marks throughout the country. Some of these instruments are a complete planetable, alidade, and telemeter, chronographs, gimbal stand, geodetic level and rod, etc. Special charts of the important harbors of the Atlantic and Gulf coasts will be exhibited on screens.

Secretary of Commerce Redfield has designated the Chief Clerk of the department, Dr. George C. Havenner, to have general charge of the installation of the exhibit at the Astor.

DAMAGE TO CONTENTS OF BALES BY USE OF HOOKS.

[Consul Augustus E. Ingram, Bradford, England, Sept. 18; supplementing report in COMMERCE REPORTS for June 14, 1917.]

Because of the difficulty of importing sufficient suitable wood the Government has restricted the use of packing cases in the export trade. Since the order went into effect bales and trusses have been used for the shipments to the United States of wool, mohair, or silk yarns, wool dress goods, mohair cloths, woollen cloths, worsteds, wool coat linings, and certain cotton cloth such as cotton checks, cotton cretannes, lustrine cotton linings, and waterproofed cotton cloths. Packing cases are now being used principally for silk cotton linings, wool damasks, and some wool dress goods.

The injury done to cloths packed in bales or trusses through the rough use of hooks by dock laborers and stevedores is apt at times to be a serious and annoying matter, as the responsibility may be difficult to determine. The *Textile Mercury* (Manchester England), in its issue of September 8, 1917, states that the hook which does the mischief is a long, two-pronged fork that will thrust its way through half a dozen pieces of cloth. The journal adds: "There is, however, another hook which presents on the 'business end' a serrated or saw-like appearance of several prongs rapidly broadening out from the points. These are much less injurious and usually only affect the wrapping, of which they grasp a considerable surface. Though not quite so certain to hold from the laborers' point of view, they are a compromise to which no objection should be taken. The article further states that the Manchester Chamber of Commerce has recently addressed all the leading shipowners suggesting that the use of hooks be stopped—though the *Mercury* thinks an exception might be made in favor of the hooks just described—but very many shipowners have replied that the handling of bales would be facilitated if they were made smaller and if they were provided with "lugs" or "ears" of the wrapping material at the corners of the bales, into which the hooks could be thrust.

These suggestions may be of interest to American exporters, as well as importers.

AUGUST EXPORTS OF BREADSTUFFS, OILS, COTTON, ETC.

The usual monthly bulletin showing exports of domestic breadstuffs, cottonseed oil, meat and dairy products, cotton, and mineral oils, from the principal customs districts of the United States has just been completed by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, Department of Commerce. It shows exports as follows:

Exports by groups and principal articles.	1 month—August—		8 months ending August—	
	1917	1916	1917	1916
EXPORTS BY GROUPS.				
Breadstuffs.....dollars..	45,502,726	35,715,846	419,098,318	287,431,706
Cottonseed oil.....pounds..	3,977,761	7,648,355	110,532,849	142,228,071
Meat and dairy products.....dollars..	664,595	836,050	14,866,473	14,062,729
Cotton.....pounds..	24,583,679	19,273,297	239,522,847	176,815,865
Mineral oils.....gallons..	459,667	425,346	2,338,472	4,194,863
.....pounds..	233,059,206	217,081,735	1,507,360,669	2,154,818,694
.....dollars..	63,524,102	30,394,521	313,303,050	270,865,007
.....gallons..	223,430,345	233,039,351	1,693,480,603	1,094,075,042
.....dollars..	21,301,310	22,203,177	154,914,269	134,227,995
Total.....dollars..	155,576,612	108,422,881	1,161,704,957	892,403,892
EXPORTS BY PRINCIPAL ARTICLES.				
Corn.....bushels..	2,669,519	6,700,142	45,520,296	40,715,329
.....dollars..	5,188,241	6,178,257	59,869,291	34,305,573
Oats.....bushels..	12,522,268	10,301,359	59,701,208	72,969,200
.....dollars..	10,466,919	5,212,651	44,298,435	36,765,778
Wheat.....bushels..	5,169,649	11,659,980	88,806,050	100,204,205
.....bushels..	13,107,968	15,828,708	206,054,917	131,738,977
Flour.....barrels..	1,015,349	857,602	7,877,455	10,347,861
.....dollars..	10,851,247	4,648,845	73,406,872	57,697,632
Beef, canned.....pounds..	5,265,754	6,221,833	48,422,992	36,115,017
.....dollars..	1,229,755	1,473,654	12,833,857	7,893,033
Beef, fresh.....pounds..	25,781,393	4,028,222	164,808,046	131,566,412
.....dollars..	4,790,810	544,137	24,392,179	16,296,799
Beef, pickled, etc.....pounds..	9,205,348	2,767,472	47,656,742	20,507,282
.....dollars..	1,090,760	327,999	5,802,896	2,221,691
Oleo oil.....pounds..	2,504,119	8,917,404	27,961,402	54,547,248
.....dollars..	536,280	1,245,427	5,697,596	7,100,992
Bacon.....pounds..	28,319,075	43,953,794	427,182,282	379,626,308
.....dollars..	6,455,269	6,711,229	83,563,732	63,009,311
Hams and shoulders.....pounds..	14,152,404	19,611,044	165,099,309	191,315,234
.....dollars..	3,154,688	3,231,244	33,588,279	29,006,699
Lard.....pounds..	25,582,006	22,890,672	299,183,869	295,078,256
.....dollars..	5,344,601	3,093,364	57,480,585	35,818,032
Neutral lard.....pounds..	136,496	1,555,101	9,060,159	20,951,770
.....dollars..	41,610	219,630	1,918,877	2,646,473
Pork, pickled, etc.....pounds..	5,020,911	4,809,983	71,635,875	83,541,186
.....dollars..	1,072,554	532,737	13,001,729	9,753,935
Lard compounds.....pounds..	2,591,982	4,262,776	36,626,255	32,046,939
.....dollars..	472,625	503,794	6,037,214	3,580,028
Crude oil.....gallons..	12,192,207	17,991,546	108,478,445	112,814,357
.....dollars..	408,280	763,656	4,841,942	4,996,899
Illuminating oil.....gallons..	45,955,349	74,328,094	457,348,154	550,186,733
.....dollars..	3,817,066	5,088,494	32,521,023	37,196,314
Lubricating oil.....gallons..	23,246,199	27,597,099	179,554,523	182,115,073
.....dollars..	4,857,798	4,786,032	34,249,575	29,432,781
Gasoline, naphtha, etc.....gallons..	30,598,219	42,341,974	272,601,162	240,498,537
.....dollars..	7,265,870	8,884,035	58,724,011	45,712,465
Residuum, fuel oil, etc.....dollars..	111,438,371	90,780,638	675,498,319	608,460,322
.....dollars..	4,932,496	2,690,860	24,577,718	16,889,614

Fuel Briquets from Paddy Husks.

In connection with the inquiry published in **COMMERCE REPORTS** for September 7 concerning a process for mixing tar or other ingredients with paddy husks for the manufacture of briquets, the American consul at Saigon, Cochin China, has transmitted a sample of a briquet made from paddy husks. It can be examined at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district offices by referring to file No. 92401.

CONSTRUCTION WORK.**ENGLAND.**

[Consul J. S. Armstrong, jr., Bristol, Sept. 14.]

Additional Grain Facilities at Avonmouth.

The Docks Committee, which administers the municipally owned docks at Bristol, Avonmouth, and Portishead, is taking steps to increase the facilities for dealing with grain cargoes at Avonmouth. Parliamentary powers were taken in 1914 for building additional granary accommodations, but the war prevented the accomplishment of the undertaking.

In the meantime, the tonnage of grain dealt with at that port has been continually increasing, and the Committee now considers it necessary that it be put in position to handle simultaneously and ex-ship a much larger quantity than under present arrangements. It is understood that the British Shipping Controller has impressed this necessity upon the Committee, and it is believed that the necessary licenses will be obtained from the Treasury without difficulty.

During the year ended April 30, 1917, 731,565 quarters of grain were passed into store before distribution, and in the three months of the current financial year 363,579 quarters were dealt with. It is reported that London, Liverpool, and Glasgow discharge practically all their ships by mechanical means.

In this connection the Committee now plans to purchase a floating ship-discharging elevator of modern design at a cost of \$121,662.

There is a further project to spend \$9,733 for the provision of four combined hand and electrically driven winches, with the necessary gear, for the purpose of guarding against possible accidents to the entrance gates of the Royal Edward Dock at Avonmouth by the possible failure of the hydraulic power while the gates are being worked.

American firms interested in providing materials and machinery in this connection should communicate with Mr. D. Ross-Johnson, General Manager, Port of Bristol, Queen Square, Bristol.

[Consul E. Haldeman Dennison, Birmingham, Sept. 20.]

Street Improvements in Birmingham.

The corporation of Birmingham has under consideration an important scheme of street improvements, which includes the construction and widening of roads, tramway extension, the construction of "ring roads," and the linking up of what are known as the main or arterial thoroughfares. The first aim is to widen many main thoroughfares. Large numbers of leases are expiring and as opportunities present themselves plots of ground will be acquired so that ultimately street lines may be rearranged. Premises with frontages to certain main arteries will not be allowed to be erected on the old street lines.

Many of the city's streets are unsuited to modern needs and their restricted width in many instances makes impossible the full and natural development of the tramway system. No great headway with the scheme can be made until after the war, and the policy is one that can only be carried out over a long period of years and at a great cost. Sanction has been granted for the construction of a

"ring road" encircling the outer part of the city. In the plans already approved some provision has been made for the making of various lengths of this encircling road, which it is intended shall be 120 feet wide and capable of carrying heavy traffic.

Suggestions have also been made for the gradual formation of two other "ring roads," one about 3 miles from the center of the city and the other practically in the central area. The intention is not, of course, actually to construct new roads, but rather to link up and improve and widen existing roads, by diversions of their course, so as to form something in the nature of two continuous thoroughfares encircling on broad lines thickly populated industrial areas. The character of the scheme and its possible effect on the tramway system is apparent.

NEW ZEALAND.

[Consul General Alfred A. Winslow, Auckland, Aug. 20.]

Construction Operations Limited to Urgent Needs.

Construction work in New Zealand at present is dull and operations in the immediate future are not promising, although there are a few structures and improvements of considerable importance in hand, mostly started or planned some months ago; and these are mostly of a public or semipublic nature. Comparatively few homes are being erected in any of the principal centers of the Dominion, save at Wellington. This means that there is not much local demand for builders' hardware, but stocks of this line are very low and there is bound to be a brisk demand for these lines here as soon as the war closes.

It is stated that only the most urgent Government works will be considered during the war, and the allowance for public works will not be large for the next year.

New District Post-Office Building—National Bank Building.

Work has been begun on the foundation for the new \$75,000 district post-office building at Auckland. The building will be 50 by 114 feet, with three stories and a basement. The foundation will be put in by the New Zealand Public Works Department and tenders will be asked for its construction early in 1918.

The National Bank of New Zealand (Ltd.) is erecting at Wellington an up-to-date bank building of reinforced concrete at a cost of \$60,000. McClelland & Co. are the contractors. A feature of the building will be a 20-foot octagonal banking chamber surmounted by an 18-foot glazed dome.

New Parliament Buildings—City Market.

Work is progressing on the new Parliament buildings at Wellington, New Zealand, and it is now officially announced that it is proposed to sufficiently finish it to accommodate the 1918 session of Parliament. This means a large amount of finishing lumber and builders' hardware. Mr. John Campbell is the architect and Hansford & Mills the contractors.

The new city market buildings under construction in Auckland will require about 1,500 tons of cement and 500 tons of structural steel. The foundation for the larger building is completed and covers about $1\frac{1}{4}$ acres. The building is to be two stories, with a

basement, and will be up to date in every particular. Messrs. Fletcher Bros. (Ltd.) are the contractors.

Cathedrals at Wellington and Dunedin—Art Gallery at Wanganui.

It has been decided to erect a fine Anglican Cathedral at Wellington as soon as conditions will permit. The tentative plans have been prepared by Mr. Frank Peck, Wellington, who is expected to be the supervising architect. The site has been selected and the building committee appointed, headed by the Lord Bishop of the diocese. The cathedral is to be of ferroconcrete, overlaid with stone and granite.

Work is progressing slowly on the \$400,000 Anglican Cathedral at Dunedin, New Zealand, begun in 1915, which it is expected to complete during 1918 if not delayed in securing imported supplies, such as slate, window glass, etc. Mr. W. McLellan, of Dunedin, is the contractor, with Mr. Basil Hooper, of Dunedin, supervising architect.

The contract has just been let for a public Art Gallery at Wanganui to cost \$77,000. It is to be practically fireproof and up to date in every particular. Wanganui is a city of about 20,000 and the center of a very productive section of the Dominion. Messrs. Graham & Son, of Christchurch, have the contract and Mr. E. Anscombe, of Dunedin, is architect. It is proposed to make a special collection of war cartoons for the gallery, and communications addressed to the Mayor of Wanganui will have attention.

NORWAY.

Harbor Improvements at Trondhjem.

Extensive harbor improvements are contemplated in Trondhjem, the execution of the whole plan involving approximately 15,000,000 to 20,000,000 crowns (\$4,020,000 to \$5,360,000). The first part of the additional structure is now under construction, and is estimated to cost about 6,000,000 crowns.

Further extensions will be made when necessary. The quays for general freight will occupy 2,450 continuous meters, and the draft alongside the quays will be from 5.5 to 8 meters (18 to 26 feet). The quays for freight in bulk will cover 1,500 continuous meters, and the draft will be from 8 to 10 meters. In connection with the quays for general freight, large warehouses 26.5 to 30 meters wide and from 40 to 60 meters long will be erected. All quays will be furnished with roads, rails, and up-to-date discharging accommodations. The bonded warehouse will cover 8,000 square meters. Special quays for the tourist traffic and for small steamers will be constructed and also a special fish harbor with surroundings.

COMMITTEE TO FURNISH NEW PARLIAMENT BUILDING.

The New Zealand Parliament has just appointed a committee, to be known as the New Parliament Building Furnishing Committee, to select the furniture for the new Government building at Wellington. In sending this information Consul General A. A. Winslow remarks that he does so "with the idea that American manufacturers may desire to compete for such articles as seats, desks, and wardrobes, in which case communications addressed to the committee will doubtless receive attention." As noted in Daily Consular and Trade Reports for November 28, 1911, the new building replaces one destroyed by fire.

SUEZ CANAL TRAFFIC FOR 1916.

[Consul General Robert P. Skinner, London, England, Sept. 20.]

An official report has just been made public setting forth the statistics of navigation through the Suez Canal for the year 1916 as compared with 1914 and 1915. The report shows that the American tonnage which passed through the canal during these three years, although relatively insignificant, increased from 2,562 net tons in 1914 to 3,436 tons in 1915 and 34,732 tons in 1916. The number and net tonnage of vessels of all nationalities passing through the canal in the three years named are given as:

Flag.	1914		1915		1916	
	Vessels.	Net tons.	Vessels.	Net tons.	Vessels.	Net tons.
United States.....	3	2,562	1	3,436	16	34,732
Austria-Hungary.....	176	631,730				
Belgium.....			1	2,170	1	2,437
Denmark.....	42	163,832	46	166,497	37	145,378
France.....	228	799,624	171	606,122	190	773,679
Germany.....	481	2,118,946				
Greece.....	49	138,042	47	85,870	23	54,640
Italy.....	131	369,239	124	363,488	142	438,830
Japan.....	64	354,367	119	565,945	27	69,856
Netherlands.....	317	1,389,390	334	1,334,474	167	643,208
Norway.....	41	96,647	48	135,544	55	166,683
Persia.....	3	2,491				
Roumania.....						
Russia.....	71	200,423	17	59,535	2	3,758
Siam.....	2	5,050			9	27,414
Spain.....	26	71,558	26	72,700	22	65,914
Sweden.....	35	132,027	38	144,330	31	110,628
Turkey.....	25	23,289				
United Kingdom.....	3,078	12,910,278	2,736	11,656,088	2,388	9,788,190
Total.....	4,802	19,469,465	3,708	15,266,155	3,110	12,325,347

The percentage of British vessels and their net tonnage in 1916 was 76.8 and 79.4, respectively, as compared with 73.8 and 76.3 in 1915 and 64.1 and 66.5 in 1914.

Other Data Given.

The report consists principally of comparative tables. One of these shows the shipping for the year 1916 arranged under various categories—merchant vessels, mail steamers, ships of war, etc. Of 1,885 merchant vessels and vessels in ballast of a net tonnage of 7,051,134 tons passing through the canal, 1,509 ships of a net tonnage of 5,762,788 tons were British, being 80.5 per cent of the number and 81.72 per cent of the tonnage. Holland, Japan, France, Russia, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Italy, America, Belgium, Spain, Roumania, and Greece combined furnished a total of 19.5 per cent of the vessels and 18.28 per cent of the tonnage of the carrying trade to the East through the Suez Canal.

A general yearly return of vessels from the opening of the Canal to the present time, with their gross and net tonnage, the transit receipts, and the mean net tonnage per vessel forms the fifth table of the report. This shows that in the 10 years, 1891–1900, the annual net tonnage ranged from 8,698,777 tons to 9,738,152 tons and the transit receipts from 83,422,101 francs to 90,623,608 francs (from \$16,100,465 to \$17,490,355). The average of the net tonnage was 8,588,947 tons, and of the transit receipts 80,006,013 francs (\$15,-

441,160), while in 1916 the net tonnage amounted to 12,325,347 tons, and the transit receipts to 80,862,403 francs (\$15,606,445). The mean net tonnage per vessel, which in 1881 was only 1,517 tons, rose to 2,067 tons in 1891, to 2,926 tons in 1901, to 3,688 tons in 1911, and to 3,963 tons in 1916.

Fifty steamers exceeding 150 meters (492 feet) in length or more than 18 meters (59 feet) in breadth, with a draft of over 8 meters (26 feet 3 inches), passed through the canal in 1916.

The average time occupied by all vessels navigating the canal in 1916 was 19 hours 12 minutes, and deducting the stoppages for military requirements 16 hours 15 minutes.

Table No. 7 is a return showing the draft of water of vessels navigating the canal during the last 15 years, with the percentage of such draft. The percentage of vessels drawing less than 27 feet (8.23 meters) was 98 in 1916, as compared with 97 in 1915 and 96 in 1914, while that of vessels drawing more than 27 feet was 2 in 1916, as compared with 3 in 1915 and 4 in 1914. Since January 1, 1915, the maximum draft allowed for vessels passing through the canal has been raised to 9.14 meters, or 30 feet.

In the year 1870, 26,758 civil and military passengers were carried through the canal; in 1880 the number rose to 98,900; in 1890, to 161,352; in 1900, to 282,203; and amounted in 1916 to 283,030, as against 210,530 in 1915.

REDUCED SUGAR PRODUCTION IN ARGENTINA.

[Consul Willbert L. Bonney, Rosario, Aug. 4.]

The following extract from the Review of the River Plate, of August 3, 1917, quoting a report of the Compañía Azucarera Tucumana, indicates the poor outlook now existing for the sugar industry at Tucuman, which is the center of production of Argentina:

The last harvest in Tucuman was a complete failure. The yields of both cane and sugar were lower than has ever been known up to the present. This is due, in the first place, to the degeneration of the native cane, which has been almost totally lost, and, in the second, to yet another exceptionally unfavorable series of climatic conditions, worse even than in the preceding year, since early and very severe frosts annihilated the cane which, owing to its backward state of development, was unable to withstand the inclemency of the weather. Our own crushing amounted only to 126,831 tons of cane, as against 300,140 tons in the preceding year and 668,650 tons at the 1914 harvest. The milling of the cane gave only 4.61 per cent of sugar, as against 6 per cent in the previous year and 9.40 per cent in 1914—that is, a total of 5,841 tons of sugar, as against 18,020 tons in the 1915 harvest and 63,422 tons in 1914.

The present harvest, which we started on last month, again occurs under deplorable conditions; as, after a drought of a duration previously unheard of in Tucuman, lasting as it did from January to May, we have again had a winter of early frosts the effects of which are also being felt upon the production of the new plantations of Java cane, planted last year in place of the native cane. These Java plantings we are continuing to extend, seeing that the native cane can no longer be counted upon. We believe that we shall be able to complete 11,000 hectares [27,180 acres] of Java cane with the plantings of the year in course. Java cane, although it generally does not give a good harvest in its first year, has shown itself very much superior to the native cane from its second year onward.

**EVERY PATRIOT is Expected to Invest in the Second Issue of
THE LIBERTY LOAN.**

COAL MINING IN GERMANY.

[Handelsberichten, The Hague, Aug. 2.]

Like the iron and the potash industries the coal-mining industry of Germany is unable to satisfy the demands made upon it. The coal deposits of the Ruhr district are so rich that with an annual production equaling that of 1913 the coal lying within a depth of 4,900 feet could not be mined in 700 years. Thus there is no lack of underground supplies, but it is impossible to bring sufficient quantities above ground, as is likewise the case with the other industries mentioned.

Moreover, owing to the war, much larger demands are now made on the coal mines than in normal times. Stocks of coal at the mines, which could not be shipped during the past winter for lack of transportation facilities, have disappeared, so that at the present time there are no supplies of coal or coke available for immediate shipment, and the quantities produced pass directly into consumption.

Reduced Output Due to Three Factors.

The reduction in the output is due to three factors—an insufficient number of miners and their helpers, a lessening of the productive capacity of the labor force, and a lack of necessary equipment. The number of mine workers has been increased by the furloughing of 19,000 soldiers who are miners or mine managers by trade or profession. This has resulted in an increase of production, but the output is still insufficient. In July of 1916 the average output per man per shift was 1.01 metric tons of coal; in April, 1917, the Langenbrahm mine, working under favorable conditions, showed an average of only 0.9 ton, and its total daily production had declined in the meantime from 1,260 to 784 tons. During the last weeks the shipments have indeed been larger than previously, June being a record month for the war period. A large proportion of these shipments, however, consists of coke which has been held in stock and can not be taken into account in estimating production, which is still far below that of peace times. In individual mines the reduction of output amounts to as much as 50 per cent.

The manufacture of coke is of particular importance in connection with the valuable by-products. The industries are extending their use of coke wherever it is possible, and the demand for this kind of fuel has increased considerably in consequence. Both the mines and the coke ovens are suffering from a lack of proper equipment, resulting frequently in a temporary stoppage of work. It is difficult and at times even impossible to replace worn-out parts with new ones, and repairs take too much time. Mine timbers, which have likewise been scarce, can now be delivered in larger quantities, as the demand for teams, railway cars, and ship space is somewhat smaller just now, and the mines are laying in large stocks for the winter.

Owing to the high prices of plant equipment and the high wages, which are still increasing with great regularity, the cost of production has risen very considerably. For the Langenbrahm mine the cost of production per metric ton of coal was 8.69 marks (\$2.07 at normal exchange) in July, 1916, and 16.16 marks (\$3.85) in April, 1917. This has led to an increase of prices, which will be increased still further after August 1, when a new tax on coal goes into force. Higher water freights have increased the cost of transportation.

Action of Rhine-Westphalia Syndicate.

At the last meeting of the Rhine-Westphalia Coal Syndicate the rule limiting the output to 80 per cent of normal was repealed because production has not reached that figure in any of the mines. The chairman declared that the syndicate had to contend with unusual difficulties in order to satisfy the many demands made upon it, and that the mines must do everything possible to increase production. The mines had succeeded in increasing the output somewhat in May and June, although all the furloughed miners had not yet arrived. But even though the shipments for May and June were larger, the difference between production and the requirements was still very great, the demand being much larger than an output which might be obtained by straining all forces to the utmost.

A resolution recently passed by the board of directors of the syndicate throws some light on the financial results of the current year. The reserves set aside from the sales of coal, coke, and briquets during the years 1911-1913, amounting to 10,000,000 marks (\$2,380,000), can now be withdrawn, since the State of Prussia has taken over the Hibernia shares. One-half of that sum is to be distributed among the members, and the remainder will be disposed of later. The sums reserved for export premiums for the years 1914 and 1915 had been estimated too high. Two and a half million marks (\$595,000) of the surplus is likewise to be distributed among the members.

Transportation Problem Unusually Important.

The transportation problem is unusually important for both the mines and the coal market. Means of transportation were sadly lacking during the past winter, and the situation was rendered more acute by the severe cold which locked the river shipping in the harbors. Some of the mines have their own harbors, but most of the coal, coke, and briquets is carried by railway and later shipped in part by river boats. The summer is always a dull season for transportation. It is now being utilized for an early accumulation of supplies, the example of large dealers being followed by the public. Thus, the railways are now carrying as much as can be shipped and yet the demand can not be satisfied. In this connection it must not be forgotten that very large quantities are needed for war purposes, and such shipments have the preference over all others.

It is generally feared that railway transportation will be unsatisfactory in the coming winter. Various measures have been introduced to improve the railway service. By means of strict orders concerning the loading and unloading of cars the average period of car circulation has been shortened, but the resulting advantages have to be shared by the shippers of fuel with the shippers of foodstuffs. It is highly probable that similar orders will be issued in regard to the loading, unloading, and detention of ships.

Coal-Conservation Bureaus.

The situation may be summarized as follows: There is no lack of underground supplies of coal; production has decreased and will probably diminish still further rather than increase; no reserve stocks are available and none can be accumulated within a short time; the demands are great and will increase as winter approaches; and, on

the other hand, owing to transportation facilities, it will be impossible to ship all the coal mined and coal will accumulate at the mines again.

In view of the dark outlook the cities are establishing local coal bureaus for the purpose of conserving their fuel supplies. It is a question whether legislative regulation can overcome all the difficulties, but it surely can promote an equitable distribution. The distribution of fuel is always irregular, due to the peculiar character of the mining industry; and if the estimates are to be even approximately correct, account must be taken of the transportation services, the efficiency of which is affected by the supply of cars and by the difficulties caused to navigation by low water or frost. One or the other of these factors is usually troublesome.

Private Consumption of Fuel Regulated.

Not only in Germany but also in Austria, which imports large quantities of coal from Germany, the fear is entertained that the supplies of fuel for the coming winter will prove insufficient, and various measures are being taken to conserve the existing stocks. Even in the Ruhr district, which is so rich in coal, and in the city of Essen, where no gas has to be manufactured as the coke ovens of the mines furnish an abundance of gas as a by-product, both coal and gas have to be conserved. The consumption of gas is to be reduced by prohibiting the use of gas stoves in dwellings, and it is expected that electric heating will be prohibited altogether. The use of gas for cooking purposes is to be limited, though the interests of the consumers of moderate means are to be protected. The people are urged to procure "hay boxes" [the Continental name for fireless cookers], and free lectures are being given on the use of these cookers by means of which 50 to 75 per cent of the gas can be saved. Instruction is given on the proper handling of heating stoves, the ventilation of rooms, the most advantageous ways of burning fuel in stoves, and the sifting of unburnt particles of coal from the ashes, representing a saving of 25 to 75 per cent, etc. Special regulations are expected concerning the heating of water, the equipment of bathrooms, the giving of baths in hotels, and the use of office rooms; several persons are to occupy office rooms which heretofore have often had but one occupant each, the Government permitting no exceptions. In the schools several classes are to share the same room.

Peat and wood can not take the place of coal, for the restrictions enumerated above are being introduced in Germany even in the Ruhr district, notwithstanding the fact that the people there are cutting wood and digging peat.

OFFICES OF THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE.

DISTRICT OFFICES.

NEW YORK: 734 Customhouse.
BOSTON: 1801 Customhouse.
CHICAGO: 504 Federal Building.
ST. LOUIS: 402 Third National Bank Building.
NEW ORLEANS: 1020 Hibernia Bank Building.
SAN FRANCISCO: 307 Customhouse.
SEATTLE: 848 Henry Building.

COOPERATIVE OFFICES.

CLEVELAND: Chamber of Commerce.
CINCINNATI: Chamber of Commerce.
CINCINNATI: General Freight Agent, Southern Railway, 96 Ingalls Building.
LOS ANGELES: Chamber of Commerce.
PHILADELPHIA: Chamber of Commerce.
CHATTANOOGA: South American Agent, Southern Railway System.
PORTLAND, OREG.: Chamber of Commerce.
DAYTON: Greater Dayton Association.

DECREASED MALAYAN TIN OUTPUT IN 1916.

[Consul General Edwin N. Gunsaulus, Singapore, Straits Settlements, July 28.]

The Straits Settlements rank first in the world in the output of tin from the huge smelters in operation at Singapore and Penang, Singapore likewise holding first place both as to quantity of tin ore received and treated and quantity and value exported. This premier position is due to the fact that the Straits Settlements have at their very doors the richest tin mines of the world, from which is supplied the ore necessary to carry on this great smelting industry at the two cities and ports above mentioned, and which, in turn, furnish the world's markets with the bulk of their tin supplies.

The Malay Peninsula produces more than half the world's supply of tin, while the combined output of tin in British possessions and protectorates amounts to about 60 per cent of the world's production. In addition to the tin resulting from the extensive mining operations in the Federated and Non-Federated States, large quantities of tin ore are imported into the Straits Settlements for smelting purposes from the Dutch East Indies, Siam, Australia, and other tin-producing countries, thus adding in no small degree to the total of the tin output of the large smelting plants at Singapore and Penang. Aside from a few small smelting plants operated by the Chinese in the Malay States, which treat a limited amount of ore, smelting is done entirely at Singapore and Penang.

Production in Malay States.

While the great bulk of the tin produced in the Malay Peninsula comes from the Federated States, which include the States of Perak, Selangor, Negri Sembilan, and Pahang, some of the Non-Federated States also produce tin in considerable quantities, so that the output of the last-named States must be considered in arriving at a correct total for the entire Peninsula.

According to the Chief Secretary's annual report for 1916, the area list for tin mining in the Federated Malay States at the end of the year was 256,800 acres. Tin produced in the Federated Malay States yielded \$36,630,722, an increase of \$1,759,847 over the previous year, due to the higher price of the metal, as there was a decrease in output of 2,896 tons. The tin produced in the Non-Federated States of Johore, Kedah, and Trengganu amounted in 1916 to 4,383 tons, as compared with 4,108 tons in 1915, making the totals for the Malay Peninsula 48,253 tons for 1916, as against 50,874 tons for 1915.

The senior warden of mines estimates the actual production of tin for each State of the Federated Malay States for the years 1914, 1915, and 1916, as follows:

State.	1914	1915	1916	State.	1914	1915	1916
	<i>Long tons.</i>	<i>Long tons.</i>	<i>Long tons.</i>		<i>Long tons.</i>	<i>Long tons.</i>	<i>Long tons.</i>
Perak.....	23,549	27,818	27,314	Pahang.....	3,793	3,987	3,721
Selangor.....	14,563	13,232	11,612				
Negri Sembilan.....	2,137	1,720	1,223	Total.....	49,042	46,766	43,870

Malayan Tin Exports.

The export of tin from the Federated Malay States for the last five years was as follows:

Year.	Tons.	Approximate value in Singapore.	Average price per ton.	Year.	Tons.	Approximate value in Singapore.	Average price per ton.
1912.....	48,421	\$47,713,180	\$985.38	1915.....	46,766	\$34,924,831	\$746.76
1913.....	50,127	47,610,505	949.79	1916.....	43,870	36,630,721	834.96
1914.....	49,042	34,493,598	703.35				

The average exports for these five years were 47,646 tons a year. Of the total 1916 output, 39,093 tons were in the form of tin ore and 4,776 smelted tin. The highest price per picul (133½ pounds) was \$55.36 on May 4 and the lowest \$43.86 on July 20. The average price per picul in 1915 was \$44.38.

The warden of mines of the Federated Malay States gives the following statement of exports for the years 1915 and 1916 through the customs from each State, reduced to a metallic basis, and its approximate value at average current prices during each year.

State.	1915		1916	
	Long tons.	Value.	Long tons.	Value.
Perak.....	27,776	\$20,711,414	27,242	\$22,754,404
Selangor.....	13,938	10,391,891	12,241	10,215,832
Negri Sembilan.....	1,214	923,235	907	759,651
Pahang.....	3,808	2,844,335	3,180	2,901,758
Total.....	46,766	34,870,875	43,870	36,631,722

The above table does not include the 4,383 tons exported from the Non-Federated Malay States in 1916 and 4,108 tons in 1915.

Imports of Tin and Tin Ore into Straits Settlements.

The imports of tin and tin ore into the Straits Settlements Colony for 1916 amounted to 6,012 and 82,500 long tons, respectively, as against 7,202 and 85,297 tons in 1915. The countries from which these imports came, with the respective quantities in each case, are given below.

Countries.	1915		1916	
	Tin.	Tin ore.	Tin.	Tin ore.
Malay States.....	Long tons. 4,940	Long tons. 63,730	Long tons. 5,476	Long tons. 58,214
Netherlands Indies.....	1,548	6,488		6,788
Australia.....		2,083		2,083
Siam.....	714	10,357	536	11,607
Other countries.....		2,619		3,809
Total.....	7,202	85,297	6,012	82,499

Destination of Tin Exports from Straits Settlements.

According to the official returns, the exports of tin from the Straits Settlements, by principal countries of destination, were as follows for the years 1915 and 1916:

Countries.	1915.		1916.	
	Long tons.	Value.	Long tons.	Value.
United Kingdom.....	22,724	\$17,245,070	25,074	\$21,580,909
United States.....	32,298	24,378,322	28,100	23,715,938
Philippine Islands.....	1	1,096	304	264,754
France.....	4,697	3,503,127	4,248	3,602,767
Italy.....	1,938	1,460,031	2,063	1,739,556
Russia.....	4,147	3,150,490	1,713	1,413,128
Spain.....	180	135,625	343	292,202
China.....	130	97,283	16	13,420
Japan.....	949	720,646	1,195	1,012,111
India.....	1,357	1,031,101	1,384	1,182,205
Other countries.....	378	282,400	761	627,159
Total.....	68,787	52,011,190	65,201	55,444,209

Features of Trade—Reason for Decreased Output.

The principal features in connection with the production and export of tin for the year 1916 may be summed up as follows: Direct exports to the United States were less than in the previous year, while shipments to the United Kingdom increased. Japan also increased its purchases. The prices ruled well above normal during the year.

The State of Perak continues to be the largest exporter of tin, producing more than one-half of the total exports of the Federated Malay States. In that State a large number of mines are worked with European capital and by up-to-date methods, including labor-saving machinery. A feature of the mine working in that State is the huge dredges employed. There are no mines in Selangor using the dredge system, all being open cast and principally in the hands of the Chinese. A growing interest in rubber production, in which there have been very large profits, has seriously militated against the tin output in Selangor and Negri Sembilan. The decrease in mining coolies, many of whom have been attracted to rubber estates by reason of higher wages, is said to account to a large extent for the decrease in the tin output.

NEW ZEALAND'S SECOND WAR LOAN OVERSUBSCRIBED.

[Consul General Alfred A. Winslow, Auckland, Sept. 10.]

The New Zealand Government has just offered the second war loan, which amounted to \$58,398,000, with interest at 4½ per cent. The loan was oversubscribed to the extent of about \$19,466,000 within a period of 14 days without disarranging financial conditions to any perceptible extent.

This makes the total amount raised by the New Zealand Government for war purposes about \$199,526,500, of which about \$68,131,000 was supplied by Great Britain, the balance being taken entirely by the people of this country.

**EVERY PATRIOT is Expected to Invest in the Second Issue of
THE LIBERTY LOAN.**

PROPOSALS FOR GOVERNMENT SUPPLIES AND CONSTRUCTION.

[Correspondence should be direct with the offices named, and specifications and other information can usually be obtained at the points where the goods are to be delivered or the work is to be performed. In cases where the time limit is too short to permit firms to submit tenders, they should ask to be placed on the mailing lists of such offices to receive notices calling for future supplies or work of a similar nature.]

Metal articles, No. 4810.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Field Medical Supply Depot, United States Army, 21 M Street NE., Washington, D. C., until November 1, 1917, axes, hand basins, tin boxes, white enamel buckets, steel collars for flagstuffs, steel corkscrews, white enamel cups, funnels, folding lanterns, tubular lanterns, tin lanterns, padlocks, scissors, sickles, soap boxes, tacks, alcohol tanks, universal tools, wire, wire cutters, oil stoves, searchlights, batteries, and lamps.

Electric lighting system, No. 4811.—Sealed proposals will be received by the Bureau of Yards and Docks, Navy Department, Washington, D. C., until October 29, 1917, for electric wiring and lighting systems, for the foundry and machine and electric shop at the navy yard, Philadelphia, Pa. Refer to Specifications No. 2603.

Manila rope, No. 4812.—Sealed proposals will be received by the lighthouse inspector, Baltimore, Md., until October 19, 1917, for furnishing approximately 21,000 pounds of manila rope at Portsmouth, Va.

Medical supplies, No. 4813.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Field Medical Supply Depot, United States Army, 21 M Street NE., Washington, D. C., until November 7, 1917, for furnishing and delivering white enameled bedpans, folding fracture boxes, seamless medicine cases, glass graduates, medicine glasses, mortars and pestles, metal spatulas, coaptation splints, wire-gauze splints, combination sterilizers, folding operating tables, test tubes, field tourniquets, instrument trays, and white enamel urinals, male.

Sewerage system, No. 4814.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Bureau of Yards and Docks, Navy Department, Washington, D. C., until October 22, 1917, for furnishing and installing a sewerage system at the naval projectile plant, Charleston, W. Va. Specifications 2589.

Steel foremast, No. 4815.—Sealed proposals will be received by the lighthouse inspector, Charleston, S. C., until October 20, 1917, for manufacturing and delivering one steel foremast to the lighthouse inspector, Charleston, S. C.

Building construction, No. 4816.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Bureau of Yards and Docks, Navy Department, Washington, D. C., until October 29, 1917, for remodeling quarters H, marine barracks, Norfolk, Va. Refer to specifications 2617.

Cooking utensils, No. 4817.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Field Medical Supply Depot, 21 M Street NE., Washington, D. C., until November 12, 1917, for furnishing and delivering aluminum bowls, cake cutters, can openers, meat cleavers, white enamel dippers, vegetable dishes, egg beaters, food choppers, flesh forks, table forks, butcher knives, soup ladles, meat platters, spice boxes, spoons, lemon squeezers, tea steepers and strainers, serving trays, etc.

Gas buoy bodies, No. 4818.—Sealed proposals will be received by the lighthouse inspector, Tompkinsville, N. Y., until October 17, 1917, for furnishing two type L acetylene gas buoy bodies.

Steel lockers, No. 4819.—Sealed proposals will be received in the office of the chief clerk, Department of Commerce, Nineteenth Street and Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Washington, D. C., until October 18, 1917, for steel lockers, 97 compartments, for use in the Department of Commerce.

Stationery, No. 4820.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Field Medical Supply Depot, United States Army, 21 M Street NE., Washington, D. C., until November 19, 1917, for furnishing and delivering elastic bands, blank books, steel erasers, black ink tablets, red ink tablets, labels for vials, carbon paper, paper fasteners, typewriter paper, ink pads, pencils, penholders, steel pens, rubber penalty stamps, shipping tags, etc.

Barn construction, No. 4821.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Office of Indian Affairs, Interior Department, Washington, D. C., until November 5, 1917, for furnishing materials and labor for the construction of one frame dairy barn, at Mount Pleasant, Mich.

PRINCETON N. J. COMMERCE REPORTS



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No. 236 Washington, D. C., Tuesday, October 9

1917

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BRITISH MAXIMUM PRICES FOR CHEESE.

Food Controller alters maximum first-hand prices of cheese, effective after November 1. Wensleydale and Stilton, 1s. 7d. per pound; any whole-milk cheese not exceeding 2 pounds weight, uncut, 1s. 6d. per pound; Caerphilly, 129 shillings per 112 pounds; other whole-milk cheese, 137 shillings; partially skimmed, British, 125 shillings.

[Previous prices were published in **COMMERCIAL REPORTS** for Sept. 24.]

LICENSES GRANTED IN ORDER OF APPLICATION.

It has recently come to the notice of the Bureau of Export Licenses that certain firms are making the statement that if applications are filed through their office it will facilitate the securing of licenses. For this so-called facilitation they are requiring fees from shippers.

Shippers are informed that if they employ firms which pretend to facilitate the procuring of licenses they are merely throwing their money away, as licenses are granted in the order of their receipt, and no facilities are given to the applications of any one firm over another.

REESTABLISHMENT OF MATAMOROS-BROWNSVILLE TRAFFIC.

[Consul General George A Chamberlain, Mexico City, Mexico, Sept. 21.]

The September 19 issue of *El Economista*, published in Mexico City, announces that in accordance with the arrangements recently made between the "Ferrocariles Constitucionalistas" (Constitutional Railways) and the Gulf Coast system passenger and freight traffic by the Matamoros-Brownsville route was reestablished on the first day of the current month. An agreement has been adopted whereby the freight and passenger rates by this route, extending as far as the United States border, shall be equal to those existing via Laredo or Piedras Negras, and that corresponding services will be provided.

Special agencies have been established at Matamoros and Monterey for the purpose of providing passengers with proper customs and transfer facilities.

SOAP MAKING UNDER THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

[Consul Lucien Memminger, Madras, India.]

In the last two years there has been progress at the soap works in Calicut, in the manufacture of ordinary soaps from various oils and fats, presumably some of the vegetable oils so abundant in this region. It is inferred that one of these is either coconut oil or castor oil from the following statement in an official publication: "Mr. Menon rediscovered an oil which prior to the entry of kerosene was a general illuminant on the west coast, but has now largely fallen into disfavor and is proportionately cheap. This is an excellent soap oil and will largely be used." The statement adds that other oils and fats than those commonly known are and will be tried. Owing partly to the price or total absence of synthetic perfumes and colors, but principally to a desire to use indigenous products only, experiments have been made in using the latter, and quasi toilet (cold process) soaps of a pleasing character, it is said, have been made with very low charges for perfume.

English Producers Study Conditions.

A local newspaper states that representatives of the great soap-boiling firms of Lever Bros., London, and Goodwin & Sons, Manchester, England, went to Calicut in January of this year and made inquiries into the condition of the soap trade on the west coast. It is considered likely that they were called into consultation with a view to development of the local enterprise.

Works which have been operated by the Department of Fisheries of the Madras Government are under Mr. Menon, already mentioned, an officer who was trained in England both in the work of an oil chemist and in practical soap manufacture. During 1915-16 fish-oil insecticidal soaps were made at the plant to the amount of about 28 tons, and nearly 25 tons were sold. The greater proportion consisted of a soap containing rosin which the planters prefer to plain soap. The plain soap continued to be sold with profit at \$3.89 and the rosin soap at \$5.19 per hundredweight of 112 pounds, notwithstanding the rise in prices of fish oil, alkali, and rosin. The experiments at this plant were begun in 1913.

Annual Report of Fisheries Director.

Referring to the new part of the soap plant, the Director of Fisheries in his annual report for 1915-16 stated:

Soapery for ordinary soaps is important, and its small-scale operations are very successful. With a small 1-ton locally made pan and some frames excellent soap has been made of various classes, samples of which were shown at the Madras Exhibition. Subsequently sales have been frequent—about 3 tons—though, owing to the smallness of operations, to the work on the fish-oil soaps, and to the heavy work of opening a new factory on a larger scale, the soap has not yet been placed in bulk on the open market, but will be by the time this report is issued. The cost has been most carefully calculated and the registers, drawn up on regular factory lines, will show the precise cost and profits not only of each class but of each batch of soap, so that reliable data will be available. The prices recently have been settled, and though glycerin has not yet been recovered, the proposed prices give reasonable profit.

Owing to the demonstrated success of the soaps the Government was pleased, toward the end of the financial year, to allot 75,000 rupees (\$24,332) for soap experiments during 1916-17, and special instructions were given that operations should include glycerin recovery. Orders and offers were consequently sent to

England to one of the chief makers of soap machinery, and a toilet-soap plant and other machines were fortunately obtained from stock and are now (August) on their way out. The larger and less complicated plant has been made out here, but, owing to the war, there has been a delay and extra cost in obtaining the plant which includes a 5-ton soap pan, boiler, etc., all now in place. It is difficult at present to obtain even common iron tanks. The vacuum glycerin plant will probably not be available for many months, but an ordinary evaporation plant is being erected, to be steamed from our new boiler. The new plant at Calicut should be making soap by the 1st of September, and the toilet-soap plant may be in operation by the 1st of October.

Cheaper Than Western Soaps.

The soap made is solely genuine soap without any adulteration or even filling. It has excellent lathering qualities, and can be sold at a good profit more cheaply than Western soaps of equal character. As mentioned in a lecture on soap at the Madras Exhibition, oils are available out here at cheap rates which are unknown—in practice at all events—to the Western soap maker. It may be mentioned that samples of our soap sent home were reported to be "too good for the price." It will be gratifying if both quality and price suit both consumer and manufacturer.

Several tours were made and considerable information was accumulated, not only as regards the sources and prices of raw materials of all kinds, including indigenous perfumes, but of the Western soaps most in favor in this Presidency. A capital exhibit was prepared for the Madras Industrial Exhibition which, however, would have been more useful if it could at once have been followed up by commercial operations.

[Articles on the soap trade of India were published in **COMMERCE REPORTS** for Jan. 21 and Aug. 18, 1915.]

INSURANCE IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC.

[Consul Arthur McLean, Puerto Plata, Dominican Republic, Sept. 20.]

There are no domestic insurance companies of any kind in the Dominican Republic, and the Sun Life Insurance Co. of Canada and the Guardian Assurance Co. (fire) of London, England, are the only foreign companies that have resident agents operating in the Puerto Plata consular district. The total amount of insurance written by the Sun Co. in this Republic in 1916 was about \$300,000, and it is understood [I understand] that it hopes to do better this year, as its business is steadily increasing. The Sun charges here what are known as tropical rates, which are about 40 per cent higher than those prevailing in the United States.

The majority of the buildings in the Dominican Republic are frame, although there are also many of masonry. During the past few years a number of concrete buildings have been erected here, and indications are that this material will in future be used more extensively. Not more than 5 per cent of the buildings in this district are covered by insurance. The few buildings that are insured are usually stores or warehouses, as dwellings are rarely insured. Every town of any consequence has its volunteer fire department, and judging from results they are very efficient, as losses by fire are inconsiderable. The rates charged by the Guardian Co. run from five-eighths of 1 per cent to 3 per cent, depending on the risk involved.

Insurance companies are not taxed nor otherwise restricted by the Dominican Government. Agents of insurance companies are, however, subject to a municipal tax of \$20 in each town where they solicit business.

BRITISH COAL TRANSPORTATION RATES.

[Consul General Robert P. Skinner, London, Sept. 12.]

The Railway Executive Committee of the British (Government) Board of Trade has furnished the annexed statement of railway tariffs on coal, which gives the actual rates in force from collieries in various parts of England to large towns. These rates are per long ton for coal in bulk in traders' open trucks in full truck loads, no charge being made for the return of the empty trucks to the collieries. The charge includes collection from the colliery sidings and standing room at destination for a reasonable period. No alteration in the rate has been made since the railways came under Government control. When railway companies' wagons are used, hire is charged in addition to the rates.

London is somewhat distant from the coal fields, and the following scale may be taken as representative of the rates to the metropolis (converted to American currency on the basis of 24.3 cents to the shilling, 2 cents to the pence): When the distance is 100 miles, the rate is \$1.28 per long ton; 110 miles, \$1.36; 120 miles, \$1.42; 130 miles, \$1.48; 140 miles, \$1.56; 150 miles, \$1.64; 160 miles, \$1.68; 175 miles, \$1.74; 245 miles, \$1.87; 290 miles, \$2.43. For points other than London the following schedule applies:

Colliery.	Destination.	Miles.	Rate per ton.
Ardsey	Leeds	6	\$0.26
West Riding	do.	9	.28
Ackton Hall	do.	16	.39
Wharnciffe Woodmoor	do.	19	.43
Manvers Main	do.	26	.51
Orgreave	do.	36	.63
Howden Clough	Bradford	7	.26
Tancley	do.	10	.30
Middleton	do.	15	.39
Savile	do.	20	.43
Moncton Main	do.	31	.53
Manvers Main	do.	40	.57
Orgreave	do.	50	.73
Kirkless Hall	Liverpool	19	.44
Darfield Main	do.	70	1.01
Renishaw Park	do.	83	1.10
Whitwell	do.	90	1.14
Newstead	do.	95	1.16
Mansfield	do.	101	1.18
Kirkless Hall	Manchester	17	.40
Darfield Main	do.	39	.63
Wharnciffe Silkstone	do.	42	.67
Grassmoor	do.	50	.73
Langley Mill	do.	58	.77
Newstead	do.	63	.79
Nunnery	Sheffield	1	.14
Wharnciffe Silkstone	do.	10	.26
Darfield Main	do.	16	.37
Grassmoor	do.	20	.43
Newstead	do.	30	.55
Stanley West Hallam	Derby	7	.24
Ripley	do.	9	.26
Bulwell	do.	19	.40
Bolsover	do.	30	.73
Low Stubbin	do.	5	.21
Gedling	Nottingham	5	.20
Newstead	do.	19	.30
New Hucknall	do.	22	.31
Shireoaks	do.	31	.46
Aldwark	do.	46	.61
Desford	Leicester	8	.34
Coleorton	do.	17	.43
Clifton	do.	28	.65
Berthine	do.	40	.79
Kingsbury	Birmingham	12	.37
Netherseal	do.	33	.57
Kirkby	do.	60	.76
Low Stubbin	do.	80	.86

Colliery.	Destination.	Miles.	Rate per ton.
Houghton Main.....	Birmingham.....	90	\$1.08
Coal Pit Heath.....	Bristol.....	9	.28
Radstock (S. & D.).....	do.....	24	.41
Swadlingcote.....	do.....	121	1.34
Desford.....	do.....	139	1.38
Linby.....	do.....	150	1.46
Camtillery (Abertillery).....	Plymouth (Cattewater).....	188	1.78
Bridgewater.....	Essex Basin.....	45	.65
Barroed.....	Cardiff (Canton).....	28	.28
Blaensychan (Pontnewynydd).....	Newport (Llanarth Street).....	11½	.20

AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FOR MEXICO.

[Consul General George A. Chamberlain, Mexico City, Sept. 12.]

American residents and firms in Mexico are considering the establishment of an American Chamber of Commerce in the capital. A committee appointed last month has submitted a prospectus in which the aims of the proposed organization are set forth. These are stated to be:

To establish a purely commercial and nonpolitical organization which will foster the friendly trade relations between Mexico and the United States, and which, in cooperation with the representatives of the United States in Mexico, will be able to initiate an active campaign for American trade;

To form a clearing house wherein business offered to firms outside their particular line may be promptly brought to the attention of such firms as are equipped to handle it;

To establish headquarters in Mexico City for local organization and for affiliation with chambers in the United States and with American chambers in the cities of Latin America and Europe;

To offer membership to American firms and American residents in the Republic of Mexico and in the United States;

To secure correspondents throughout Mexico and especially in localities where no American consular officers are stationed;

To compile the information thus gathered and to distribute or utilize it for the benefit of members and for the promotion of American trade and industry;

To publish a periodical bulletin and market reporter, carrying paid advertisements, and ultimately to establish and let space for exhibits both of American manufactures and of the products of Mexico;

To take up such other activities as the members may determine.

The membership, limited to Americans, will consist of three classes, active, associate resident, and associate nonresident. Only active members will be privileged to vote.

REQUISITION OF WHOLE RICE AND MAIZE IN ITALY.

[Consul General David F. Wilber, Genoa, Aug. 30.]

The Gazzetta Ufficiale, published at Rome, August 24, 1917, contains a decree of the Commissary General for supplies and consumption of food, ordering the requisition of the crops of whole rice and of maize of 1917. Exception is made for the amounts of whole rice and maize necessary to each producer for the sowing of his fields; for the feeding of his family and of those dependents to whom he is obliged to give food or payment in kind; and for the use of his live stock; these amounts to be determined by the prefects of the various Provinces. Violation of the ruling is punishable by one year's imprisonment and a fine of 5,000 lire (\$965).

In the Province of Genoa the minimum stock of maize exempt from declaration is 5 metric tons of 2,204.6 pounds each.

PHILIPPINE MANGROVE BARK RESOURCES.

[Commercial Agent C. E. Bosworth.]

Mindoro is one of the larger islands of the Philippine group. It is a Province by itself and contains 3,983 square miles. It is distant from Manila a little more than 100 miles or twelve hours by steamer. Along the shores of this island Province are considerably more than 30,000 acres of mangrove swamps; with large trees in practically virgin growth, conservatively estimated to yield 50,000 tons of bark, readily convertible into approximately 17,000 tons of cutch. Just why this advantageously located growth of our own should have remained untouched for so long it is hard to understand.

More Species Than Are Found in Borneo.

The Philippines have 21 species of mangrove in their swamps—two more than are found in Borneo—and the Mindoro growths are not the only ones in the archipelago. Supplementing them are the swamps in Bataan on Manila Bay; at the mouth of the Danao River in Occidental Negros; in the municipality of Barotac Nuevo in the Province of Iloilo, and stretches along the island of Palawan, as well as the growths for 45 miles along the shores of Mindanao. The possible cutch production of these swamps is tremendous. Plenty of cheap labor is available, there is no duty to be paid upon the extract entering the United States, and considerable saving in freight can be made. The tannin content of the barks runs from 12 to 35 per cent and will average quite as satisfactory as that of the Borneo mangroves.

At the chemical laboratory in the Bureau of Science, Manila, a cutch was made by leaching from the finely ground bark in cold water, the solution being reduced to dryness in a vacuum. The resulting cutch was dry, solid, brown in color, and the fracture was brilliant—almost metallic. It was easily and completely soluble in water.

Analysis of barks from Mindoro show tannin content ranging from 9.6 to 28.2 per cent. Those from Mindanao show content from 8.8 to 27.2 per cent. The highest amount of tannin found in samples of Borneo bark was 32 per cent.

Controlled by Bureau of Forestry.

While many of these swamps are large enough to be commercially attractive, those of Mindoro seem at present to offer the best inducements. They are directly controlled by the Bureau of Forestry and may be worked under license. The timber growths of the Philippines are carefully conserved, so that they could not be worked for bark alone, but the demand for piles, poles, and firewood is so great that the stripped timber could be readily and profitably marketed. An enterprise of this kind would be cordially welcomed by the Philippine Government, and a 20-year license agreement to exploit large bodies of mangrove would be readily obtainable.

Another basis upon which to work would be to buy bark from independent firewood cutters, who would welcome such a market. Still another possible method would be in conjunction with one of the large lumber concerns. One of these is now operating in Mindanao and is not using the bark at all.

The establishment of such a factory in the Philippines would undoubtedly prove very profitable in itself, and certainly of great value to the American tanning trade. For specific information, interested persons should write to Director Fischer, Bureau of Forestry, Manila, P. I.

[An article on tanning methods employed in the Philippines was published in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for July 8, 1916. The Philippine hide industry was described in the issue of Sept. 14, 1917. A map showing the distribution of the 800 square miles of mangrove swamps in the islands and their proximity to the swamps of Borneo may be inspected at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district offices. Refer to file No. 1283.]

NETTLE FIBER AS DANISH TEXTILE MATERIAL.

[Commercial Attaché Erwin W. Thompson, Copenhagen.]

The people of Denmark have given much attention recently to the gathering and preparing of nettles for fiber. Scarcity of all textile material is causing much trouble, and any chance to find substitutes is eagerly pursued. The Government made a small appropriation for experiments, and the principal engineering school is taking a great interest in the development of the technical side. The *Berlingske Tidende*, one of the largest newspapers in Denmark, has devoted considerable space to the promotion of the gathering of nettles by country people and their delivery to the Government Committee. The newspaper gave the use of a large room in its Copenhagen offices for exhibiting everything of interest in this connection. There were show cases full of exhibits of flax, ramie, and other fibers for comparison with the nettle. Yarns and cloths made from nettle fiber also were to be seen, and these were dyed and bleached and made to compare favorably with flax. Some samples of German and Austrian goods had been collected and these included a piece for automobile tires. A few Danish linen factories have spun and woven samples of this material, and a good showing was made of binder twine, an article much needed at this time.

Grows Wild in Meadows and Woods.

The particular nettle that is of value for its fiber is the *Urtica dioica*, which grows wild in the meadows and woods of Denmark, Germany, Austria, and other countries. It is about 30 inches high. It should be cut down when in flower, dried in the sun like hay, stripped of leaves, made up into bundles, and finally retted like flax, except for some minor details. It was found, for instance, that the sugar in the plant caused a fermentation in the ordinary retting process, and for this reason the water must be changed, taking away the solution of sugar before the retting process is complete.

The leaves and tops of the plant are said to be good feed for various animals of the farm.

INCREASED USE OF POTATO FLOUR IN ENGLAND.

The British Food Controller authorizes an addition of 1 pound of potatoes for every 7 pounds of flour in the manufacture of bread, according to a cablegram received from Consul General Skinner at London.

FOREIGN TARIFFS.**CANADA.****Metal Goods Liable to Dumping Duty.**

Notice has been given in Appraiser's Bulletin No. 1574, of September 18, that metal manufactures of the kinds named below are now produced in Canada, and similar goods imported into Canada will therefore be subject to the regulations against dumping. The anti-dumping provisions of the Canadian customs tariff of 1907, section 6, apply only to "articles exported to Canada of a class or kind made or produced in Canada." The metals listed in the bulletin are the following:

Yellow or Muntz metal in sheets of widths up to and including 36 inches wide and in bars or rods of diameter up to and including 5 inches.

Nickel silver and German silver in strips and sheets.

Tobin bronze in bars or rods as used for the manufacture of gas buoys, etc.

The second and third items of the list above are free of ordinary duty; yellow metal for use in ship construction or repairs is duty free, but when intended for other uses is dutiable. The war tax of 1915 applies to all the metals named without regard to their use. It is assumed that this tax is not regarded as "ordinary duty," and that no exemption will be allowed for the difference between fair market value and selling price to the importer in Canada except in the case of yellow metal not intended for ship construction.

In accordance with the regulations of September, 1914, the dumping duty is applicable in all cases when the difference between the fair market value and the selling price of the goods to the importer in Canada exceeds 5 per cent of the fair market value. The dumping duty applies, without exemption allowance, to articles of a class or kind made in Canada when admitted free of ordinary duty.

[The dumping clause of the Canadian tariff and regulations affecting it are given in Tariff Series No. 24, Consular Regulations of Foreign Countries (Canada and Latin America), sold by the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C., for 10 cents. Recent rulings regarding declarations of value were published in COMMERCE REPORTS for July 14 and September 25.]

CEYLON.**New Customs Tariff.**

The schedule of the revised customs tariff of Ceylon, based on the Customs Amendment Ordinance, No. 10, of 1917, dated June 8, 1917, has been published in the British Board of Trade Journal for August 16. The new schedule is characterized by important increases in duty, chief among them being the rate of $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent, instead of $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent, for articles not specified in the tariff, which include most articles. The free list has been reduced by the removal of certain metal goods and other articles, which are now subject to duty either as "articles not specified" or at specified rates. The schedule is on file in the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, and inquiries in regard to the rates of duty upon particular articles will be answered upon request.

GUATEMALA.**Embargo on Cattle in Petén.**

The exportation of cattle from the Guatemalan department of Petén, the northernmost Province of the country, is prohibited for the period of the European War. The presidential decree establishing this embargo was issued on September 4.

FOREIGN DEMAND FOR BOOTS AND SHOES.**UNITED KINGDOM.**

[Consul E. Haldeman Dennison, Birmingham, England, Aug. 16.]

Some years ago American shoes enjoyed a very good sale in England, the Birmingham market taking a considerable proportion of such imports. The American manufacturers were making such progress in the sale of their products as seriously to threaten the domestic trade. Plans were accordingly made to combat the invasion so as to retain the home market for British footwear. British manufacturers bought American machinery and American lasts, and closely followed the American models, besides making their shoes more weatherproof in order to withstand the dampness of the British climate. At that time American shoes were not so impervious to moisture, and as rubbers are rarely ever worn here, this fact gave a great advantage to the shoes of British manufacture and resulted in the gradual curtailment of sales of the American product.

At the time the conditions changed, there were perhaps a dozen shoe dealers in Birmingham who stocked American shoes, but the efforts of the British makers have proven so successful that to-day the number of shops selling American shoes is quite insignificant. One disadvantage that the American manufacturers have to contend with here is the fact that in the district itself are several boot and shoe factories where large quantities of these articles of a very excellent quality are produced. The American manufacturers' system of maintaining shops where their own products are sold has been recognized by the British makers as an advantage, and this also has been copied by them with good results. The practice to some extent has lessened the demand for American goods from the smaller dealers, who, when they noted the competition of exclusive American shoe shops, made a point of emphasizing the fact that they sold only the British article and dropped American lines.

Could Promote American Sales.

Birmingham and the surrounding districts have many shoe shops, but few of these are in a position to buy in sufficient quantities to allow them to import direct. It would seem, therefore, as if there was little chance of selling direct to British shops in this district. The only way it could be done would be to select a good salesman in the trade and have him sell here by personal solicitation, showing samples and making inquiries as to the financial standing of each firm. The fact that the two American shops mentioned continue to do an excellent business indicates that despite the enterprise shown by the British makers, American shoes command a market. No doubt a larger proportion of American shoes could be sold if an earnest effort were made, but it would require the most careful salesmanship. In the London district, it is stated, American shoes are very popular, and probably they could be more successfully introduced into this country through that center than any other.

The styles of shoes on sale in this district are very similar to those on the American market. The type for women's wear with a single or double strap across the instep and a very thin sole and high heel is frequently seen. Many women in the wet weather wear a high, thick-soled shoe that is like the heavy high shoe for men but adapted

to the shape of a woman's foot. Many of the low shoes are in suede and some in cloth, with colors to match the stockings or costumes. Both men and women wear yellow shoes to some extent, but the black shoe is more popular.

[A list of boot and shoe dealers in the Birmingham district may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 92628.]

[Consul R. E. Holaday, Manchester, England, Aug. 9.]

Increased Imports of American Shoes.

Since the outbreak of the war, the imports of boots and shoes from the United States to Manchester have materially increased. The total value of the imports for 1915 was \$59,833 and for 1916 \$405,997. Supplies are also received by the merchants here from manufacturers in the United States through Liverpool and London. Particulars of these are not available.

The English people make an invariable distinction between "boots" and "shoes." By the former they understand only what are known in the United States as "high shoes" and by the latter what the American trade calls "low shoes." In this country boots are always more expensive than shoes of the corresponding grade, quality, shape, etc.

There would seem to be an excellent market in this consular district for American shoes. Prices have continued to advance during the past two years, in some grades as much as 50 to 75 per cent. The trade in women's and children's American shoes is, however, much below that in men's shoes, and it is stated that it is due to the frequent changes in their styles and shapes. Present retail prices for women's shoes at most of the stores here are \$3.76, \$4.49, \$5.10, \$6.07, and \$7.29. In men's shoes prices range from \$4.86 to \$10.21, according to quality. If any American producer can place a well-made shoe suitable to the requirements of the market at competitive prices, it will probably be possible to develop business in this territory.

[A list of possible importers of shoes at Manchester, England, may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 92223.]

[Consul J. S. Armstrong, jr., Bristol, England, Aug. 31.]

Manufacture of Boots at Bristol.

The boot industry is carried on extensively in the city of Bristol and in the suburban district of Kingswood. The latter place is chiefly concerned with the manufacture of heavy boots, while the factories in Bristol make footwear of all kinds. The industry has been considerably reorganized in recent years as a means of meeting American competition. The style and comfort of the American product gained constantly increasing recognition, and the local manufacturers found themselves compelled to adapt their products to the popular taste.

Exports and Imports in Recent Years.

The quantities and values of leather boots and shoes exported from Bristol during the calendar years 1908 to 1915 in dozen pairs were: In 1908, 3,024, valued at \$29,250; 1910, 6,505, at \$57,142; 1912,

2,484, at \$19,583; 1913, 1,958, at \$28,007; 1914, 674, at \$8,502; 1915, 1,863, at \$9,066. These are exported principally to the British colonies, and the figures indicate that this trade has considerably decreased during the war. The imports for the same years were: In 1908, 85 dozen pairs, valued at \$1,548; 1910, 82, at \$1,075; 1912, 248, at \$2,764; 1913, 174, at \$1,523; 1914, 56, at \$394; 1915, 1,292, at \$21,033. These figures indicate an increase in the quantity and value of boots and shoes imported since the beginning of the war.

The local buyer does not like to wear rubber overshoes, and on account of the very rainy climate a heavy boot with a thick sole is usually in demand. The thin-soled shoe most popular in America is unsatisfactory in this market. The design of the shoe must be conservative. American shoes sold in Bristol come chiefly by way of London and are placed on the market through agencies.

ITALY.

[Consul B. Harvey Carroll, Jr., Venice, Aug. 17.]

A growing scarcity of men's shoes, and of the materials out of which they are made, makes the present time favorable for American manufacturers to enter this market. The Veneto, all of which is within this consular district, embraces the following Provinces, each of which contains a city of the same name: Belluno, Padua, Rovigo, Treviso, Venice, Verona, and Vicenza. Padua and Belluno have become very important on account of the war.

The demand is especially for men's shoes. A part of the demand would be for high-grade, finely finished officers' shoes, but it would be necessary for the American manufacturers to study carefully the tastes and models prevalent in Italy. Officers' shoes and boots should be soft, form-fitting, without toe caps, and without box or unusual toes.

Chrome calf and kid are the most popular materials for men's shoes. In Venice black shoes are preferred, although tans and browns are also worn. In other cities and Provinces of the Veneto there is a larger demand for tans and colors.

Present Imports from Switzerland.

Before the war great quantities of shoes were imported from Germany and Switzerland, and imports from Switzerland of stock unsuitable for army use still continue.

In 1914 there were imported through the customhouse at Venice 2,125 pairs of shoes, valued at 29,750 lire (\$5,742), while the exports through this port were 5,226 pairs, valued at 54,873 lire. In 1915 only 3 pairs of shoes, valued at 55 lire, entered this port, and 30 pairs were exported, valued at 390 lire. In 1916 not a pair was either exported or imported.

The duty on boots and shoes of all kinds (except rubber) is 200 lire for each 100 pairs. Austria-Hungary had a conventional tariff rate of 100 lire per 100 pairs, which was extended to the United States under the most-favored-nation clause, but this will be discontinued after December 31, 1917. For purposes of importation no distinction is made between men's, women's, and children's boots and shoes, but dolls' shoes, if not more than 7 centimeters (2.75 inches) in length take a different classification. Cloth and felt shoes which have paper

soles are classified as sewed articles, even if they have leather or wooden heels and are reinforced with strips of leather in the uppers.

The advisability of having a decree to fix a single standard and type of shoe for the population and to prescribe the price at which such shoes may be sold has been considered. Should such a standard be established, it is probable that American factories would not be excluded from marketing shoes of the Government type if they can compete with the established prices. There has been much complaint on the part of the population that paper-soled shoes are sold as leather.

American Shoes Heavier Than Italian.

American shoes as a rule are heavier and have heavier uppers and thicker soles than Italian shoes.

Many Italians patronize small-shop cobblers who make to individual measurements, and such shoes are usually very satisfactory and conscientiously made. A pair of women's shoes, cobbler-made, in leather or suede now costs from 40 to 80 lire. Men's shoes cost 50 to 60 lire, and men's boots 50 to 100 lire, paper currency. Machine-made shoes cost from 20 to 50 lire per pair. The mint value of a lira is \$0.193. At the present time a dollar is worth lire 7.40 in paper currency, and a paper lira is worth only 13½ cents.

To permanently compete in this market, American manufacturers should establish a central agency and depot, preferably at Milan. They must carefully study Italian taste in shoes. They must show samples and must allow retail sellers to be certain that the goods correspond to the samples. Above all the question of credits must be considered.

All Italian dealers are accustomed to the German and Swiss system, which granted liberal time limits for payment when dealing with established and reliable firms. Several original invoices of the Société Anonyme C. F. Bally, of Schönenwerd, Suisse, were examined recently. Some of the invoices were for sums aggregating several thousand lire, and all of them, even of very recent date, granted credit of 30 days after receipt of the goods.

Sources of Supply for the Veneto.

It is found that the manufacturers of shoes in the Veneto produce but a portion of the quantity required by the principal markets here. Important factories of Lombardy, all having their head offices in Milan, have established branch houses in the chief cities of this district. The principal manufactures are:

(1) Calzaturificio di Varese, with large works in Varese, Province of Como, whose branch house in Venice is situated in Calle Tron. This factory has many other branch depots in all the principal towns of Italy. It is a limited company with a paid-up capital of about 1,500,000 lire. All business transactions are to be concluded with Calzaturificio di Varese, Sede di Milano, at Milan.

(2) Calzaturificio Bernina, Via Bernina, Milan. It has three sales shops in Venice, but all business must be done through the Milan chief office, Via Bernina, Milan.

(3) Messrs. Trani, Mandosio & Co., exclusive sales agents for the Calzaturificio Lombardo Borri & Vitale, whose chief office is at Milan, Via Cosimo del Fante 6.

An important manufacturer and dealer in Venice is Mr. Eugenio Penzo, Ponte della Canonica, Venice.

Specializes in Shoes With Nailed Soles.

At Stra, in the Province of Venice, there is another large manufacturer of shoes—Cav. Luigi Voltan, Stra, Venice. This firm specializes in common shoes made with nailed instead of sewed soles. Its works are now under the Government's requisition.

In Padua an important manufacturer and dealer in this line is Calzaturificio Pinton Vittorio, Via Savonarola, Padua. This firm, it is reported, a few days ago closed an important contract with an American shoe manufacturer of St. Louis, Mo., through a firm of Genoa. It is said that the contract was for 18,000 pairs of shoes, payment against shipping documents at Genoa, goods to be delivered c. i. f.

CANADA.

[Consul Charles M. Freeman, Sydney, Nova Scotia, Aug. 14.]

As the Sydney district is in the eastern part of Canada, the greater part of the boots and shoes imported from the United States comes from New England manufacturers. An item to be considered by producers is the Canadian tariff of 37½ per cent ad valorem on all boots and shoes coming into the country from the United States.

It is estimated that the total amount expended for boots and shoes, a term which includes foot covering of all kinds, during 1916 amounted to more than \$800,000. With the constantly increasing price, the total retail sales for 1917 will be very close to \$1,000,000.

Before the beginning of the present war in 1914, very few American boots and shoes were sold in this district, the trade being almost entirely in the hands of the Canadian manufacturers, but their efforts recently have been directed to the requirements of the Government and many of the retail houses, unable to secure delivery of their orders, made connections with American firms. These sales, regardless of the large duty, have been constantly increasing. Before 1914 a commercial salesman for boots and shoes was seldom seen in Cape Breton, but during the present season several have canvassed the more important places.

Growth of Local American Population.

In addition to the circumstances mentioned, the American population of Sydney has materially increased—a development which creates a demand for goods made in the United States. Nevertheless, lines of business in this district, including the sale of boots and shoes, are represented by very few firms which buy their stocks direct from the United States. They deal with Canadian importing firms located in the more important commercial centers of the Dominion, such as Halifax, Nova Scotia, St. John, New Brunswick, Montreal, Quebec, or Toronto, Ontario. This is because they have already made connections with these firms, arranged credits, do not have to consider the tariff, and buy in smaller quantities, in fact supplying their needs from the more extensive stock of the supply houses.

Money is plentiful in Sydney and vicinity, it is freely spent, and never in the history of this community has the opportunity to find a market for all classes of goods been better. The retail prices for

cheap grades of boots and shoes have increased 100 per cent since 1914, and on choice goods even more.

[A list of firms in the Sydney district which might import boots and shoes may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 92090.]

ALGERIA.

[Consul A. C. Frost, Algiers, Aug. 6.]

The only statistics available show the imports of footwear into Algeria for 1913, 1914, and 1915 to have amounted, respectively, to \$668,938, \$478,447, and \$264,603. In addition to France, countries mentioned as those from which shoes are imported are Great Britain, the United States, Spain, Tunisia, and Morocco. The quantities coming from these countries, however, are unimportant compared with those from France, and practically all shoes of American manufacture were imported through France.

The import duties on boots and shoes are: Boot and shoe parts, 175 francs per 100 kilos (\$15.32 per 100 pounds); top boots, 2.50 francs (\$0.48) per pair; high shoes, 1.50-3 francs (\$0.29-\$0.58) per pair; low shoes, 0.40-1.56 francs (\$0.077-\$0.29) per pair; children's shoes, 0.25-0.75 franc (\$0.048-\$0.14) per pair.

Merchandise in the port of Algiers is unloaded from ships into lighters and undergoes a fair amount of rough handling. It is therefore advisable to ship goods in strong packing boxes.

[A list of dealers in Algiers who might import shoes may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 92151.]

RATIFICATION OF PORTUGUESE TREATY BY CANADA.

The treaty of commerce and navigation between the United Kingdom and Portugal, which was ratified by the two Governments in May, 1916 (see Foreign Tariff Notes No. 23, p. 58), has now been ratified by the Canadian Government, according to Customs Memorandum No. 2116B. It is provided in article 21 that the treaty shall not extend to any of the dominions, colonies, etc., of either country unless notice shall have been given by the dominion or colony concerned within one year from the date of ratification.

Most-favored-nation treatment is now granted to certain Portuguese products on importation into Canada under the same terms as those granted to articles from France and French colonies by the treaty of 1907. A list of the French products entitled to the minimum or special rates of the Canadian tariff may be examined upon request addressed to the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

[The commercial convention of 1907 between Canada and France, with schedules of tariff rates, was published in 1909 by the Bureau of Manufactures as Tariff Series No. 6C. This publication is now out of print, but copies may be examined at the district offices of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.]

BRITISH TRADING RESTRICTIONS IN TEAK AND LIGNUM-VITÆ.

Consul General Skinner reports from London that the sale or purchase of teak logs, planks, and decking and lignum-vitæ is forbidden from October 5, except under license.

CONFERENCE OF THE FISH TRADE.

The United States Food Administration recently called a conference of representatives of the fish trade of the United States, and it was held in Washington on September 24 and 25. The meeting was attended by about 50 persons who are interested in the fishing industry in all parts of the country.

The conference was held primarily to secure the full cooperation of the industry with the Food Administration and to obtain an interchange of views on the entire food-fish situation. Subjects announced for special consideration and free discussion were the licensing of the fishing industry under section 5 of the new food-control law; production and the speeding-up of production; trade cooperation; wholesale distribution and prices; retail distribution and prices; freezer storage and the frozen-fish pack; and transportation.

The conference was presided over by Mr. Kenneth Fowler, in charge of the fish-food branch of the Food Administration, and was addressed by Mr. Herbert Hoover, Dr. Mary E. Pennington, Dr. Hugh M. Smith, and others.

The Bureau is actively cooperating with the Food Administration and looks for great benefit to the fishing industry and to the general public from this important meeting.

CREAMED SHARK SERVED AT COMMERCE CHAMBER DINNER.

An agent of the Bureau of Fisheries, engaged in the work of inducing the people of the South Atlantic States to make proper use of neglected fishery resources, recently gave an interesting demonstration in Raleigh, N. C., on the occasion of a dinner given by the Chamber of Commerce in honor of a distinguished visitor. At the conclusion of the banquet the Bureau's representative, Mr. C. Arthur Orr, made some remarks about his work and asked for an expression of opinion regarding the fish course. There was nothing but praise for the dish that had been served, and it was not until Mr. Orr made his announcement that any one at the dinner was aware of the fact that the dish was creamed shark.

A company has taken over an old tannery in Pittsburgh with the intention of operating it hereafter exclusively for the handling of fish skins. The company advises the Bureau of Fisheries that, at the outset, it will be able to handle 150 skins daily and that it is in the market for any shark skins 2 feet or more in length.

OFFICES OF THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE.

DISTRICT OFFICES.

NEW YORK: 734 Customhouse.
BOSTON: 1801 Customhouse.
CHICAGO: 504 Federal Building.
ST. LOUIS: 403 Third National Bank Building.
NEW ORLEANS: 1020 Hibernia Bank Building.
SAN FRANCISCO: 307 Customhouse.
SEATTLE: 848 Henry Building.

COOPERATIVE OFFICES.

CLEVELAND: Chamber of Commerce.
CINCINNATI: Chamber of Commerce.
CINCINNATI: General Freight Agent, Southern Railway, 96 Ingalls Building.
LOS ANGELES: Chamber of Commerce.
PHILADELPHIA: Chamber of Commerce.
CHATTANOOGA: South American Agent, Southern Railway System.
PORTLAND, OREG.: Chamber of Commerce.
DAYTON: Greater Dayton Association.

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the Bureau and its district and cooperative offices. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and state opportunity number. The Bureau does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases. Symbols: * Reported by American consular officers; † Reported by commercial attachés and commercial agents; ‡ Direct inquiries received by the Bureau.

In considering the following "opportunities" regard should be had to the regulations requiring export licenses for certain articles.

Automobile supplies.....	25540	Oils and greases.....	25540
Boots and shoes.....	25541	Paper.....	25533
Codfish.....	25539	Presses and molds.....	25532
Dry goods.....	25534	Sacks.....	25537
Electrical goods.....	25540	Sewing machines and accessories.....	25535
Food products.....	25538	Sheet metal.....	25538
Hardware.....	25534, 25538	Steel.....	25534
Hats.....	25537	Thread.....	25537
Lavatory supplies.....	25540	Toys.....	25537
Machinery.....	25532, 25538	Tubing.....	25538

25532.†—The vice consul of a foreign country, who is stationed in the United States, wishes to be placed in communication with American manufacturers and exporters of presses, molds, and machinery used in the manufacture of mosaic, tiles, telephone and telegraph insulators, pulleys, etc.

25533.†—An American firm in China desires to be placed in communication with American manufacturers and exporters of paper, particularly news and printing paper.

25534.†—A man who has just arrived from Paris and who will be in the United States for a short time wishes to secure agencies, on a commission basis, for the sale of dry goods, hardware, cotton and silk piece goods, and all kinds of steel, in all South American countries, especially Brazil. He expects to leave for South America at the end of October. References. Correspondence may be in English.

25535.*—A commission agent in Spain wishes to secure an agency for the sale of sewing machines and accessories. Correspondence should be in Spanish. References.

25536.*—A man in Italy desires to purchase or secure an agency for the sale of all kinds of food products in large quantities. Payment will be made against documents. Correspondence may be in English.

25537.†—A member of a firm in Costa Rica, who will be in the United States for a period of two months, desires to purchase large quantities of threads, hats, jute sacks, and toys. Correspondence should be in Spanish. References.

25537.*—A firm in Brazil desires to secure an agency for the sale of small ice machines, electric plants, sheet hardware, sheet iron, sheet tin, tubing, etc. Cash will be paid. Shipments are preferred through some reputable export house which understands documentation for Brazil. Correspondence may be in English. Samples, if possible, and full information in regard to terms, etc., should be submitted with first communication. References.

25539.*—A company in Portugal wishes to represent American exporters of codfish, in 300 and 400 ton shipments. Quotations should be made f. o. b. New York. Confirmed credit will be opened by telegram. Correspondence should be in French. Reference.

25540.†—A representative of a firm in Ecuador, who will be in the United States for about one month, desires to purchase or secure agencies for the sale of earthenware lavatories and water closets, electrical goods, electric lamps for automobiles and house purposes, motor boats, automobile supplies, lubricating oils, and greases. Quotations should be made f. o. b. New York. Payment will be made by cash in New York or credit terms. Correspondence may be in English. References.

25541.*—A company in England wishes to purchase boots and shoes for the Indian and Chinese markets. The shoes and boots should be of cheap and medium grades. Quotations should be made f. o. b. New York. Cash will be paid in the United States. References.

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No. 237 Washington, D. C., Wednesday, October 10 1917

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BRITISH ORDER REGARDING LARD SUPPLIES.

Consul General Robert P. Skinner cables from London that the British Food Controller has given notice that persons holding stocks exceeding 10 tons of lard, except neutral lard and compound, must furnish particulars by October 3.

GREAT BRITAIN RESTRICTS TRADING IN HOSIERY LATCH NEEDLES.

[Cablegram *from American consul general, London.]

War Office forbids purchasing, sale, delivery, manufacture, or loan of hosiery latch needles without permit from Hosiery Needle Committee. No person shall make or take delivery of hosiery latch needles otherwise than under contract authorized by Committee. Ministry of Munitions includes acetic acid of all strengths among war material which can only be dealt with under permit.

EXTENDING THE TIME FOR LICENSES FOR RAW COTTON.

The Exports Administrative Board has determined to extend indefinitely the special licenses issued on September 7, 1917, through the customs service, covering raw cotton shipped to certain destinations. At that time shippers were informed that individual licenses would not be required for shipments of raw cotton to Great Britain, France, Italy, and Japan, their colonies, possessions, and protectorates, nor directly to Russia, provided such shipments were covered by railroad and/or ocean bill of lading dated on or before October 31, 1917.

The Board now rules that until further action no individual licenses will be required for the exportation of raw cotton to the United Kingdom, France, Italy, or Japan, their colonies, possessions, or protectorates, or directly to Russia.

COFFEE SUPPLIES IN THE NETHERLANDS.

[Consul Frank W. Mahla, Amsterdam, Aug. 6.]

A feature of the present "Coffee Statistics" publications is the disappearance of the Netherlands from the countries with stocks on hand. In peace times the statistics gave this country from 300,000 to 700,000 bags in stock at any stated period. The last publication gives the following as to stocks in Europe on July 31, 1917: Netherlands, none; England, 816,000 bags; Havre, 2,023,000; Bordeaux, 89,000; and Marseille, 337,000; making a total of 3,265,000 bags.

However, upon special inquiry the writer learns that there is some stock in Holland. Of course, "stock" in these statistics does not include what is in retail shops, but only what is held by importers. There were 165,103 bags in bonded warehouses at the end of July. But that is relatively a small stock. At the corresponding date of 1916, the stock was 209,000 bags; of 1915, 555,000; of 1914, 703,000; of 1913, 391,000.

Figures of stock on hand have not been published for several months because the imports went into second hands almost the moment they arrived in Holland. Recently, there have not been the idle accumulations, lying weeks or months in first hands, as in former years. The immediate distribution of imports indicates a scarcity, which is the case. No supplies have arrived for several months. Since January 1, 1917, only 77,000 bags have come, according to published reports; whereas in the first seven months of 1916 the arrivals in Holland were 940,000 bags; 1915, 2,503,000; 1914, 1,044,000; and 1913, 894,000.

The stoppage of arrivals is due to the intensified submarine warfare.

It is estimated that the present stock of coffee in Holland, including that in retail stores, will last only four or five months.

EXPORTS OF SUGAR AND MOLASSES FROM BARBADOS.

[Consul C. Ludlow Livingston, Barbados, West Indies.]

The following table shows the exports of sugar and molasses from Barbados to the United States during the period January to June, 1917, and the amount exported to other countries according to customs statistics:

Kind.	To United States.	To other countries.
Sugar:		
Crystals.....tons..	100	23,801
Muscavado.....do.....		10,320
Molasses:		
Fancy.....gallons..	74,082	4,525,839
Choice.....do.....	578,167	1,109,049
Vacuum pan.....do.....		375,318

Prohibition in the City of Quebec.

The voters of the city of Quebec, Canada, on October 4 declared in favor of prohibition, and the law will go into effect May 1, 1918. Adjacent areas are not affected, and traffic in liquors at most points along the municipal boundaries will continue.

EXPIRATION DATE OF EXPORT LICENSES.

There has been considerable confusion recently, due to the fact that export licenses have expired on or about the time the goods covered by such licenses were being delivered to the steamers. The steamship companies have refused to receive the goods, because they were not certain that the vessel would actually clear before the expiration of the license. Consequently there has been congestion and delay in the loading of vessels.

The Exports Administrative Board is extremely anxious to avoid this confusion. It has, therefore, ruled with respect to licenses expiring after October 1, 1917, that such licenses will be considered good if the ocean bill of lading is dated on or before the expiration date of the license. In case there should be any delay in the issuance of the ocean bill of lading after the goods have been actually delivered to the steamer, the collectors of customs have been authorized to consider the date of the dock receipt as the governing date, and if this is on or before the date of the expiration of the license, the license may be considered good.

Through Bills of Lading.

The Exports Administrative Board later ruled with respect to shipments made on through export bills of lading dated on or after October 10, 1917, that the date of such through export bill of lading shall be the governing date as related to the expiration of the export license.

For example, if a shipment leaves Chicago on a through bill of lading to Yokohama, dated October 10, 1917, it shall be permitted to go through under an export license which expires on or after October 11, 1917, regardless of when the goods actually leave the country. This ruling seemed desirable on account of the great length of time consumed at present in the transportation of goods to points of exit.

ITALY REGULATES COMMERCE IN SWINE.

[Consul General David F. Wilber, Genoa, Aug. 31.]

The *Gazzetta Ufficiale*, published at Rome August 27, 1917, contains a regulation of the Commissary General for provision and consumption of food in regard to commerce in swine. Exports of swine from the Province are subject to the control of the prefect, who on favorable opinion of the provincial grain association may concede export permits, even general and without limit.

The maximum price of 400 lire (\$77) per quintal (100 kilos, or 220.46 pounds) live weight is fixed for swine of a weight not less than 200 kilos. For swine of lesser weight, exceeding, however, the minimum limit for slaughtering, the prefects are to determine the maximum sale price after having heard the provincial grain association and received the approval of the Commissariat General for provision and consumption of foodstuffs.

The provincial grain association, as furnisher of fodder, has the right of preference on the fatted swine. Those who carry on the industry of fattening swine, therefore, are obliged to make a declaration to that effect before September 10, 1917, to the provincial grain association, from which must be requested, in every case, authorization to sell.

RULING CONCERNING LICENSES FOR SMALL SHIPMENTS.

The announcement by the Exports Administrative Board, published on September 13, headed "Export License Procedure Simplified for Small Shipments" [see COMMERCE REPORTS for Sept. 17], explained that on and after September 20, 1917, certain shipments containing one or many different commodities, each of small value, might be licensed by the indorsement of the collector of customs at the point of exit. The Board now announces that the "Shippers' Export Declaration" may be licensed not only by the collector of customs at the point of exit but by any collector or deputy collector of customs.

Small Shipments of Conserved Articles.

On September 25, 1917, the Exports Administrative Board published a "Conservation List" [See COMMERCE REPORTS for Sept. 29], including certain additions recently made. In view of the fact that the careful conservation of these articles is necessary on account of the limited supply and the needs of the United States in its successful prosecution of the war, the ruling published September 13 entitled "Export License Procedure Simplified for Small Shipments" has been modified with respect to the commodities which are now, or may later be, on the "Conservation List." On and after October 10, 1917, collectors of customs will not approve "Shippers' Export Declarations" for proposed shipments containing commodities on the "Conservation List." Shippers desiring to export commodities on the "Conservation List" must therefore make application for export license on the regular application form, regardless of the value of the proposed shipment. This modification will not apply to shipments of less than 125 bushels of food grains, 25 barrels of flour, 125 pounds of butter, or 125 barrels of sugar when destined to Canada, Newfoundland, or Mexico, which shipments may still be licensed by the indorsement of the collectors of customs, as announced on September 14.

TELEGRAPH AND TELEPHONES IN THE MALAY STATES.

[Consul General Edwin N. Gunsaulus, Singapore, Straits Settlements.]

According to official returns there were on December 31, 1916, 2,210 miles of telegraph and telephone line and 10,461 miles of overhead wire in the Federated Malay States, of which 7,914 miles were telephone wires. There were, in addition, 26½ miles of underground telephone cables, containing 2,418 miles of wire, single line. These figures include 1,007 miles of telephone wire maintained by the railway department for its own use. The Posts and Telegraphs Department also owns 242 miles of telegraph wire in the State of Johore.

The revenue derived from telegraphs was \$102,031, the figures showing an increase of \$27,244 as compared with 1915. The revenue derived from telephones in the Federated Malay States for 1916 was \$109,457, being an increase of \$8,792 over 1915.

**EVERY PATRIOT is Expected to Invest in the Second Issue of
THE LIBERTY LOAN.**

THE TIN-PLATE SITUATION.

The demand for tin plate from all corners of the globe and the consequent high prices prevailing have not only attracted more capital and resulted in the erection of new mills, but have led the existing mills to tin a much greater proportion of their black-plate production than is ordinarily the case.

This practice, according to a statement issued by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, Department of Commerce, will also be followed next year, judging from figures just made public by the Tin Plate Conservation Committee and which are based on returns from the large producers. The figures are as follows:

Item.	Base boxes.	Number of companies reporting.
Estimated hot-mill production for 1918.....	38,709,000	12
Estimated production of coke tinplate for 1918.....	36,450,000	12
Total shipments for first 8 months of 1917.....	22,843,779	10
Shipments of coke tin plate for food containers for first 8 months of 1917:		
Domestic.....	12,750,350	10
Canada.....	587,372	8
Shipments of coke tin plate for oil cans for first 8 months of 1917:		
Domestic.....	924,316	8
Export.....	591,951	8
Shipments of coke tin plate (including silvered tin) for tobacco containers for first 8 months of 1917.....	721,443	5
Shipments of coke tin plate for bottle caps and stoppers for first 8 months of 1917.....	644,522	6
Shipments to jobbers—all tin mill products—for first 8 months of 1917.....	1,030,019	9
Total shipments to foreign countries for first 8 months of 1917:		
Canada.....	1,080,332	8
Other countries.....	1,448,001	8
Obligations as of Sept. 1, 1917:		
For food containers.....	7,188,577	11
All other purposes.....	8,433,183	11

Unless greatly increased shipments are made to the oil, tobacco, and bottle cap manufacturers during the last quarter, their consumption this year will be approximately 1,000,000 base boxes each for tobacco and bottle caps and 2,000,000 boxes for oil. While this is probably as much as was used in the same industries last year, it falls far short of meeting this year's requirements.

CLEAR SPRUCE FOR AIRPLANES.

[Consul Geo. M. Hanson, Prince Rupert, British Columbia, Canada, Sept. 18.]

The recent demand for clear spruce for the construction of airplanes and the sharp advance from \$50 to \$90 per thousand feet of this lumber have created great activity in the timber districts of Northern British Columbia, and especially on the Queen Charlotte Islands, where spruce is found in large quantities. A new sawmill is being erected by the Emerson interests at Prince Rupert, the intention being to supply it with logs rafted across Hecate Strait. The old sawmill plant at the mouth of the Kheyex River has been acquired by Vancouver capitalists, and its capacity will be increased to 75,000 feet per day. Improvements are being made at other sawmill properties that have either been idle or working on half time, and every effort is being made to push production as rapidly as possible. The new mill at Prince Rupert and the one at Kheyex River are expected to employ about 100 men each.

PULVERIZED COAL FOR CENTRAL RAILROAD OF BRAZIL.

[Consul General A. L. M. Gottschalk, Rio de Janeiro, Sept. 8.]

Last week the Central Railroad of Brazil inaugurated a series of experiments with its new coal-pulverizing plant at Barra do Pirahy, which has caused considerable interest and comment in engineering circles here generally. The plant was furnished by an American firm, was installed here by one of its engineers, and is said to have cost between 2,000 and 3,000 centos of milreis (about \$500,000 to \$750,000 United States currency).

The pulverizer is described as being similar in construction to a cement plant. The coal, freed of its moisture, goes into a hopper and is pulverized so that 80 per cent of it can pass through a 200 mesh screen. It is then passed to the locomotive by means of a conveyor screw and blast, thus bringing the ignitable powder to the mouth of the locomotive furnace, at which point combustion takes place. The recent experiments were conducted under the direction of Dr. Assis Ribeiro, a well-known Brazilian engineer, who is assistant director in charge of locomotion for the Central Railroad. The experiments were carried out entirely with American coal and were an unqualified success.

Utilization of Domestic Fuel.

It is now proposed to continue this series of experiments within a few days, first with domestic coal and American coal mixed, and then finally with Brazilian coal, from the Jacuhy district, in the State of Rio Grande, alone. The Jacuhy River, in the State of Rio Grande, waters a district that is said to be rich in the peculiar and until now somewhat problematically useful coal of Brazil—"problematically useful" because it is a coal that does not burn economically in the usual lump form. It is, however, believed that, once pulverized, this coal would give results quite equal to much of the lignite that is burned in the United States in pulverized form, and would prove to be exceedingly adaptable to the needs of railroads. A Brazilian engineer, Dr. Luis Betim Paes Leme, who is the owner of one of the mines in the Jacuhy district (the São Jeronymo Mine), has stated that he was well satisfied with the experiment which he caused to be made some time ago with 50 tons of the São Jeronymo product on the New York Central Railroad.

There are two large mines in the region, one of them situated at a place called Jacuhy and partially owned by the Government and the other at Sao Jeronymo. At the former mine the Government, it is understood, is building 60 kilometers (37 miles) of railroad to reach river transportation. The latter mine is only 20 kilometers (12 miles) from the river bank and has its own railroad. The Sao Jeronymo mine will probably have dug 10,000 tons of coal this month and they hope to make it 12,000 by October.

Satisfactory Results Achieved.

The pulverization which was done so successfully the other day at Barra do Pirahy was done with American coal screenings—the leftover of American coal that is down here. The technical men present were delighted to observe that a locomotive raised steam from a cold boiler to full-steam pressure in the short time of 1 hour and 5 min-

utes; and when the locomotive returned from an 180-kilometer (112-mile) trial trip over variable ground with maximum grades of 1 per cent, examination of the fire box showed it to be absolutely clean of dust or clinker, the only residue being slag in quantity hardly sufficient to fill an ordinary fire bucket. The steam pressure, it appears, was kept up uninterruptedly, with the injector working all the way.

If the continuation of the experiments alluded to above should make available for railroad purposes the domestic coal supply of Brazil, there is an enormous field of possibilities open to railroading here. For a long time the problem of all the railroads, but notably that of the Central (for many of the smaller roads have burned wood), has been that of fuel, and many of the best judges of these matters now believe that this problem is on the highroad to solution.

COOPERATIVE INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH.

[Consul Franklin D. Hale, Huddersfield, England, Sept. 6.]

Realizing that many industrial firms are debarred from the benefits of scientific research into their particular lines of activity by the great cost of such studies, the Committee of the Privy Council for Scientific and Industrial Research proposes the introduction of the "community" or cooperative idea, whereby a firm unable to bear the entire expense could still contribute to the cost of and share in the benefits accruing from experiments undertaken on behalf of the industry as a whole. It is planned to establish "trade research associations" to be formed as needed for each industry or group of industries, aided out of certain Government funds which the committee administers. One association is just about to be organized for the cotton industry, and others will be organized as soon as may be for the wool, flax, oil, and photographic industries.

Already accomplished results of the committee's work include the discovery of three kinds of optical glass, the investigation of light alloys for use in aeronautics, and the production of a new hard porcelain from purely British raw material, while researches into the recovery of tin are expected to save that industry a very large amount each year. The work will be carried into other departments of the industrial life of the country.

INCREASED DUTY ON CIGARETTES IN NEW ZEALAND.

Consul General Winslow has reported from Auckland, under date of September 8, that a further increase of 5s. (\$1.22) per 1,000 has been made in the rate of duty on cigarettes of the cheaper grades. The increase affects only cigarettes weighing not more than 2½ pounds per 1,000. Tariff changes noted in COMMERCE REPORTS for September 25 included the addition of 3s. (\$0.72) to the former duty of 17s. 6d. on cigarettes of the same grade. The two increases, amounting to \$1.94 per thousand, make the present rate £1 5s. 6d. (\$6.20) per 1,000. To this must be added the primage duty of 1 per cent ad valorem charged on practically all imports into New Zealand as a war revenue measure.

BRITISH CONTROL OF WOOLEN AND WORSTED INDUSTRIES.

[Consul General Robert P. Skinner, London, England, Sept. 21.]

The further control of the woollen and worsted industries in the United Kingdom is announced by the Army Council. A Board of Control is established for the purpose, regulated on the following lines:

(1) The Army Council shall determine the amount of raw wool to be maintained in reserve for military purposes, and shall also, from time to time, fix, in consultation with the board, the amount to be released for civilian trade.

(2) The War Department shall continue to determine, through its executive officials, the terms and conditions of all contracts for Government supplies, and such contracts shall be closed under the sole authority and responsibility of the officials of the department appointed for that purpose. All financial arrangements shall remain in the hands of the War Department.

(3) The board shall not be responsible for dealing with raw wool up to and including the making of tops. This shall be done by the Army Contract Department, which shall make the arrangements for distribution in accordance with the requirements of the board.

Allocation of Supplies—Production and Sales.

(4) Subject to the above reservations, the board shall regulate all allocation of wool, tops, and other products and by-products in such manner as (a) to secure the most efficient execution of Government orders for supplies of woollen and worsted goods; (b) to employ to the greatest advantage the labor, machinery, and skill now engaged in the industry; and (c) to keep in full use the greatest possible proportion of the machinery at present employed in the trade.

For the purpose of securing the above objects it is provided that:

(1) The board is empowered to allocate as between districts, trades, groups, and individual firms the quantity of wool and tops available for civilian trade.

(2) The officials of the War Department shall obtain the advice and concurrence of the board in the allocation of Government contracts in so far as is necessary to insure the most efficient and equitable distribution as between districts, trades, groups, and individual firms, and to secure all possible regularity and continuity in production.

(3) The director of wool textile production shall keep the board informed, month by month, of the total quantity of wool required to produce the necessary Government supplies. The board shall cooperate with the responsible officials to execute the Government program to the utmost possible extent; but if for unavoidable reasons there is a deficiency in the quantity of wool actually put through the machines for Government purposes the director of wool textile production shall, at the request of the board, release, as an additional civilian supply, a sufficient quantity of wool to make up the deficiency.

(5) The director of raw materials shall from time to time furnish the board with statistics as to stocks, expected supplies, and estimated requirements of wool to assist the board in determining its policy.

(6) The director of raw materials shall furnish the board with all the available information regarding arrangements for the export of wool, noils, tops and yarn and shall seek the advice of the board on such matters.

(7) If a majority of the official representatives on the board differ from the decision of the board on any matter affecting the provision of Government requirements, the matter may be referred by them to the director of raw materials for the decision of the Army council.

(8) The board shall take over the work of the existing priority and other committees of the trade which have assisted the Army contracts department. The board shall, at its discretion, set up district and sectional committees, representative of the trade, and delegate to such committees such of its powers as it may deem expedient.

(9) The man-power and production committees shall be assisted by the board in any matter within its powers. The minutes of the various man-power and production committees dealing with the above matters shall be sent to the board of control.

(10) The Army council orders now in force regarding working hours and the limitations of the rights of use and of sale of wool owned by spinners and

manufacturers and other matters directly affecting the interests of wool spinners and manufacturers shall come under the review of the board. The War Department, in continuing these measures of control or modifying them, shall act with the advice and concurrence of the board. The enforcement of such measures shall be supervised and directed by the board, provided always that any steps in this regard which, in the opinion of the surveyor general of supply, require reconsideration shall be referred back to the board for that purpose.

(11) The board shall take all possible measures to protect the interests of the home consumer and to secure equitable treatment as between various branches of the industry.

(12) The board may from time to time submit recommendations to the Army council in respect of matters connected with the industry not covered by the present terms of reference and may recommend to the Army council the enlargement of its functions to deal therewith.

NAVIGATION COMPANIES IN ITALY COMBINE.

[Consul Jay White, Naples.]

Statements have been published in *Il Mattino* of Naples and other newspapers showing the formation of a large navigation company by the merging of lines. The new company will have headquarters at Naples. Although there are slight differences in the printed details of the plans for the enterprise, agreement on the principal facts is observed. One report presents the information that there are two presiding officers of the new company, one being Mr. William Peirce, of Naples, and the other Mr. Weil, the administrative adviser of the Banca di Commerciale Italiana at Milan. The report from *Il Mattino* is, in part:

The firm of Peirce Bros., Naples, and the group, Navigazione Generale Italiana, have completed plans for the construction of an important new navigation company which, with capital of 100,000,000 lire divided into 100,000 shares of 1,000 lire each, will have for its object every operation of navigation and maritime transportation any sea, lake, or river for any destination.

The two groups forming the new society are Sicula Americana and Peirce Bros. on one side, and on the other the Navigazione Generale Italiana and the Navigazione Italia, each group subscribing 50,000,000 lire (\$9,650,000). The capital is partly in ready money and partly represented by steamships.

The new concern will be called Transoceanica and will have its headquarters in Naples. It will dispose soon of 14 ships for the tonnage of about 100,000.

Value of Ships Estimated on Prewar Basis.

From other sources it is learned that the actual total tonnage to be subscribed is about 92,000, the value of ships subscribed to be taken at the prewar basis of 250 to 300 lire per ton. The Peirce group has given up its whole service and that of the Sicula Americana, while the second group gives the whole fleet of the Italia Co., the name of which will henceforth disappear from the registers, besides two of the latest cargo boats owned by the remaining three lines—the *Milazzo* and *Volturmo*, about 12,000 tons each—in order to make up their proportion of tonnage.

The company will have 9 directors, 5 being appointed by Peirce Bros. and 4 by the other group. The shares are to be held by the syndicate for 10 years. The president and general manager will be Mr. William Peirce; the director Mr. T. Ferrary, who was director of the former Italia Co.; and the registered offices at Naples. Mr. Peirce will be elected a member of the board of directors of the Banca Commerciale Italiana and a director of the Istituto Credito Navale, which was formed some months ago by the leading four Italian shipping lines for the insurance of their vessels, with capital of 50,000,000 lire.

MOVEMENT OF COAL AND COKE.

The movement of coal and coke over 13 leading eastern railroads during July and seven months ending July, 1916 and 1917, follows:

JULY.

Classes and railroads.	Originating on line.		Received from connections.		Total.	
	1916	1917	1916	1917	1916	1917
FOR REVENUE ONLY.						
Anthracite:	<i>Short tons.</i>	<i>Short tons.</i>	<i>Short tons.</i>	<i>Short tons.</i>	<i>Short tons.</i>	<i>Short tons.</i>
Baltimore & Ohio.....			87,317	151,189	87,317	151,189
Buffalo, Rochester & Pittsburgh.....			8,594	31,990	8,594	31,990
Buffalo & Susquehanna.....			657	59	657	59
Chesapeake & Ohio.....	144	170	1,430	512	1,574	682
Huntingdon & Broad Top Mountain.....			28	95	28	95
Pennsylvania.....	414,753	508,850	491,756	386,251	906,509	895,121
Pittsburgh & Lake Erie.....			88		88	
Pittsburg, Shawmut & Northern.....			1,108	854	1,108	854
Virginian.....		100	150		150	100
Western Maryland.....			26,055	42,557	26,055	42,557
Total.....	414,897	509,120	617,192	613,527	1,032,089	1,123,647
Bituminous:						
Baltimore & Ohio.....	2,645,143	2,703,394	502,765	597,577	3,147,908	3,300,971
Buffalo, Rochester & Pittsburgh.....	742,781	830,050	2,593	3,612	745,376	833,663
Buffalo & Susquehanna.....	131,426	119,165		286	131,426	119,450
Chesapeake & Ohio.....	2,092,531	2,117,999	182,840	147,735	2,275,304	2,265,734
Huntingdon & Broad Top Mountain.....	47,383	88,062	27,889	35,109	75,272	123,171
New York Central (Buffalo and east).....	569,845	675,992			569,845	675,992
Norfolk & Western.....	2,067,410	2,189,507	545,036	578,830	2,608,446	2,768,337
Pennsylvania.....	3,577,954	3,948,430	436,758	721,384	4,014,712	4,669,814
Pittsburgh & Lake Erie.....	647,172	654,122	446,336	397,241	1,093,508	1,061,363
Pittsburg, Shawmut & Northern.....	243,541	100,301	652		244,193	100,301
Virginian.....	361,743	470,522	64,260	72,514	426,003	543,036
Western Maryland.....	314,996	475,230	453,571	303,917	768,557	779,147
Total.....	13,437,848	14,372,774	2,662,700	2,858,224	16,100,548	17,230,998
FOR COMPANY FUEL.						
Anthracite: Pennsylvania.....	6,997	21,863	11,096	5,730	18,093	30,593
Bituminous:						
Baltimore & Ohio.....	446,937	401,567	16,144	10,823	463,081	412,690
Buffalo, Rochester & Pittsburgh.....	55,018	65,284			55,018	65,284
Buffalo & Susquehanna.....	7,234	9,161			7,234	9,161
Chesapeake & Ohio.....	135,169	192,772			135,169	192,772
Huntingdon & Broad Top Mountain.....	2,201	3,026			2,201	3,026
New York Central (Buffalo and east).....	221,279	154,856			221,279	154,856
Norfolk & Western.....	188,682	228,365	44,317	31,619	232,999	259,984
Pennsylvania.....	564,297	660,099	77	12,199	564,374	672,298
Pittsburgh & Lake Erie.....	23,281	41,305	13,939		37,220	41,305
Pittsburg, Shawmut & Northern.....	9,804	4,109			9,804	4,109
Virginian.....	20,111	26,301	102	4,639	20,213	30,940
Western Maryland.....	48,810	41,823		11,773	48,810	53,596
Total.....	1,722,873	1,828,968	74,579	71,053	1,797,402	1,900,021
COKE FOR REVENUE AND FUEL.						
Baltimore & Ohio.....	267,371	271,522	70,421	48,095	337,792	319,617
Buffalo, Rochester & Pittsburgh.....	26,614	24,494	9,904	13,185	36,518	37,679
Buffalo & Susquehanna.....	36,204	33,853			36,204	33,853
Chesapeake & Ohio.....	32,850	28,904	2,902	5,367	35,752	34,271
Huntingdon & Broad Top Mountain.....	7,275	5,556	21	273	7,296	5,829

JULY—Continued.

Classes and railroads.	Originating on line.		Received from connections.		Total.	
	1916	1917	1916	1917	1916	1917
COKE FOR REVENUE AND FUEL—continued.						
Norfolk & Western.....	<i>Short tons.</i> 148,846	<i>Short tons.</i> 173,185	<i>Short tons.</i> 3,534	<i>Short tons.</i> 18,118	<i>Short tons.</i> 152,380	<i>Short tons.</i> 191,303
Pennsylvania.....	879,184	767,881	377,898	295,457	1,256,559	1,063,338
Pittsburgh & Lake Erie.....	89,914	32,943	527,889	541,012	617,803	623,955
Virginian.....				29		29
Western Maryland.....	6,612	6,993	3,290	19,794	9,902	26,787
Total.....	1,494,850	1,385,331	895,356	941,330	2,390,206	2,326,661

SEVEN MONTHS ENDING JULY.

FOR REVENUE ONLY.						
Anthracite:	<i>Short tons.</i>	<i>Short tons.</i>	<i>Short tons.</i>	<i>Short tons.</i>	<i>Short tons.</i>	<i>Short tons.</i>
Baltimore & Ohio.....			858,784	1,145,301	858,784	1,145,301
Buffalo, Rochester & Pittsburgh.....			161,805	151,397	161,805	151,397
Buffalo & Susquehanna.....			4,005	2,555	4,005	2,555
Chesapeake & Ohio.....	587	688	7,435	5,483	7,992	6,171
Huntingdon & Broad Top Mountain.....			430	559	430	550
Pennsylvania.....	3,420,900	3,604,730	3,344,650	2,957,417	6,765,550	6,562,147
Pittsburgh & Lake Erie.....			554	1,255	554	1,255
Pittsburg, Shawmut & Northern.....			7,319	6,842	7,319	6,842
Virginian.....	144	765	2,102	1,615	2,246	2,380
Western Maryland.....			166,599	304,171	166,599	304,171
Total.....	3,421,601	3,606,183	4,523,683	4,576,586	7,945,284	8,182,769
Bituminous:						
Baltimore & Ohio.....	16,623,881	16,910,027	3,984,000	4,140,596	20,608,571	21,050,623
Buffalo, Rochester & Pittsburgh.....	5,394,987	5,699,398	23,482	54,775	5,328,469	5,754,173
Buffalo & Susquehanna.....	861,085	897,284	126	1,582	861,791	898,816
Chesapeake & Ohio.....	14,481,416	13,841,885	1,426,268	1,064,947	15,907,684	14,906,832
Huntingdon & Broad Top Mountain.....	429,049	632,365	208,440	244,324	637,469	876,689
New York Central (Buffalo and east).....	4,556,879	4,894,214			4,556,879	4,894,214
Norfolk & Western.....	14,716,741	14,055,518	3,180,043	2,209,829	17,896,784	17,165,347
Pennsylvania.....	24,697,904	25,849,429	3,585,945	5,132,351	28,283,849	30,981,780
Pittsburgh & Lake Erie.....	3,220,884	3,731,405	2,910,346	2,838,084	6,141,230	6,569,489
Pittsburg, Shawmut & Northern.....	1,743,350	862,001	2,910	140	1,747,560	862,141
Virginian.....	2,634,114	3,322,301	415,233	541,310	3,049,347	3,863,611
Western Maryland.....	2,107,000	2,936,525	2,583,413	2,383,050	4,691,103	5,319,584
Total.....	91,388,560	93,632,352	18,321,896	19,610,947	109,710,456	113,243,299
FOR COMPANY FUEL.						
Anthracite: Pennsylvania.....	80,550	156,011	110,816	78,823	191,366	234,834
Bituminous:						
Baltimore & Ohio.....	3,378,966	3,565,398	98,602	92,683	3,477,568	3,658,089
Buffalo, Rochester & Pittsburgh.....	421,748	462,440			421,748	462,440
Buffalo & Susquehanna.....	63,275	60,638			63,275	60,638
Chesapeake & Ohio.....	1,374,495	1,337,297			1,374,495	1,337,297
Huntingdon & Broad Top Mountain.....	19,714	22,319			19,714	22,319
New York Central (Buffalo and east).....	1,445,819	1,277,892			1,445,819	1,277,892
Norfolk & Western.....	1,563,025	1,632,356	298,858	330,473	1,861,883	1,962,829
Pennsylvania.....	4,691,273	4,586,248	699	77,509	4,691,972	4,663,757
Pittsburgh & Lake Erie.....	187,525	304,176	86,670	19,366	274,185	327,542
Pittsburg, Shawmut & Northern.....	81,355	40,784		40	81,355	40,824
Virginian.....	174,031	184,588	505	43,035	174,536	227,623
Western Maryland.....	382,418	804,502	38,143	100,045	388,561	404,547
Total.....	13,733,644	13,782,638	521,477	663,156	14,255,121	14,446,704

SEVEN MONTHS ENDING JULY—Continued.

Classes and railroads.	Originating on line.		Received from connections.		Total.	
	1916	1917	1916	1917	1916	1917
COKE FOR REVENUE AND FUEL.						
Baltimore & Ohio.....	<i>Short tons.</i> 2,034,390	<i>Short tons.</i> 1,630,172	<i>Short tons.</i> 556,240	<i>Short tons.</i> 439,303	<i>Short tons.</i> 2,590,630	<i>Short tons.</i> 2,069,475
Buffalo, Rochester & Pittsburgh.....	235,860	177,457	93,396	92,825	329,246	270,282
Buffalo & Susquehanna.....	270,088	237,521	.....	.....	270,088	237,521
Chesapeake & Ohio.....	251,107	247,274	60,611	46,338	311,718	293,612
Huntingdon & Broad Top Mountain.....	44,106	38,667	4,105	4,862	48,211	43,529
Norfolk & Western.....	1,164,537	1,309,405	56,593	89,934	1,221,130	1,399,343
Pennsylvania.....	6,609,045	5,291,923	1,899,306	1,859,213	8,508,352	7,151,136
Pittsburgh & Lake Erie.....	653,380	653,044	4,127,205	3,683,490	4,780,585	4,336,534
Pittsburgh, Shawmut & Northern.....	.....	.....	70	19	70	19
Virginian.....	.....	.....	30	100	30	100
Western Maryland.....	54,238	52,997	87,650	67,629	141,948	120,626
Total.....	11,316,812	9,638,460	6,885,196	6,283,717	18,202,008	15,922,177

NOTE.—The returns for the Erie Railroad were not received in time for insertion in the above tables.

BIRMINGHAM INCREASES PRICES OF ELECTRICITY.

[Consul E. Haldeman Dennison, Birmingham, England, Sept. 12.]

The Birmingham electric supply department has issued a revised scale of charges for low-tension current. The new prices are considerably higher than those previously in force and are due to the increased cost of coal and the higher wages now paid.

Current for Lighting Purposes.

The scale of charges for the use of current for lighting purposes is established according to classes of consumption as follows:

Ordinary rates.—Under 1,000 units a quarter, 9 cents per unit; from 1,000 to 1,500 units, 8 cents; from 1,500 to 5,000 units, 7½ cents; from 5,000 to 20,000 units, 7 cents; from 20,000 upward, 6 cents.

Long-hour rates (under agreement).—Under 1,000 units a quarter, 7 cents; 1,000 and upward, 6 cents. Minimum charge, £12 (\$58.39) per annum.

Restricted hour supply.—For 10,000 units and upward a quarter, 6 cents per unit. This rate is subject to a five years' agreement, with the provision that 80 per cent of the current used will be taken between 6 p. m. and 6 a. m.

Factory rate.—The lighting charge is 7½ cents per unit for factories where the units taken for power purposes are not less than 50 per cent of the total quantity taken per quarter.

The ordinary and long-hour rates are subject to a special discount of 5 per cent if 50,000 units per annum are consumed, and in addition all the rates that have been given are subject to a discount of 5 per cent if the account is paid on or before the date indicated on the invoice.

Agreement With Picture Houses.

The charges to picture houses for a supply to motor generators, by special agreement guaranteeing a total annual consumption amounting to \$486 for three years, are: Up to 10,000 units per annum, 5½

cents per unit; from 10,000 to 20,000 units, 5 cents; from 20,000 units upward per annum, 4 cents.

Arc-lamp lighting, current, maintenance, and attention (the department supplies current and carbons, and maintains the lamps hired from it for 600 hours per annum for an inclusive charge; when lamps are used beyond this period the charge is pro rata).—For lamps in pairs, per lamp, \$25.55; for lamps in sets of four or five, \$24.33. The terms for arc lamps are under a special agreement, with a minimum period of five years. Accounts are rendered quarterly and are net.

Prepayment meters.—Current supplied through these meters, 9.10 cents per unit.

Two-rate consumers.—Primary rate, 16 cents per unit; secondary rate, now 5 cents.

Rates for Power, Heating, and Cooking.

Special rates are provided for power, heating, and cooking. These are as follows according to the total amounts consumed:

Ordinary rate.—Up to 300 units a quarter, 4 cents per unit; from 300 to 1,000 units, $8\frac{1}{2}$ cents; 1,000 units upward, 3.25 cents. Accounts are rendered quarterly and are net.

In all cases where the current consumed during the quarter at the usual rates is of lower value than \$1.22, a minimum charge of this amount is made.

MOTORS DISPLACE HORSES IN CARRYING INDIA'S MAILS.

[Extract from Madras Times, forwarded by Consul Lucien Memminger, Madras.]

The Presidency postmaster at Madras last February made an experiment by using three motor vans instead of horse vans for the conveyance of mail bags to suboffices in the city. The experiment was the first of its kind in India, and it was so successful that the entire horse service is now to be abolished. Three lorries converted into vans were added to the first three, and four other vans have now been brought into use. The motor "fleet" is now complete.

It is stated that the substitution of motor vehicles for the old horse vans has resulted in a considerable saving to the Government; and as the Postal Department in Madras had to maintain a stable of 47 horses, this is surely understandable. The cars, moreover, have reduced the time of transit between the several offices, and it is anticipated that when mail steamers return to their former regularity of arrival, and when mail trains run with their former speed, the advantage of the new system will be seen by the public in the shape of earlier deliveries and later dispatches.

[A long article on the use of motor vehicles in India was published in COMMERCE REPORTS for May 18, 1917.]

Market Desired for Sole Leather and Other Tannery Products.

An American consular officer in Argentina has transmitted the name of a firm that desires to sell sole leather and other tannery products direct to American houses. The firm produces about 5,000 tanned hides per month. Samples may be furnished those interested. The name of the firm can be obtained at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district or cooperative offices by referring to file No. 93430.

USE OF WHALE MEAT AS FOOD.

The Fisheries Service Bulletin for June, 1917, in an article on the use of whale meat as food referred to the advocacy by the United States Fisheries Bureau of the use of whales, porpoises, and dolphins as important sources of human food. It was also noted in May that fresh whale meat had been placed on sale in Seattle and that whale steak had been served at hotels and restaurants in that city. Under date of September 18 the bureau had been advised by the American Pacific Whaling Co., with factory at Grays Harbor, Wash., that the company is finding a ready market for whale meat, and anticipates difficulty in supplying the demand. The issue of the Pacific Fisherman for September, 1917, contains the following article, under the title "Whale meat in San Francisco":

The experimental placing of whale meat on the menu of the Palace Hotel one day in July served to bring it before the public sufficiently for some of the hotels, restaurants, and markets to take it up. Whale meat in August was selling in the California market, San Francisco, at 22½ cents a pound. This seems to be too high a price for popularity, although it is cheaper than beef, when the absence of waste is considered. The Palace and St. Francis hotels and the St. Germain restaurant in San Francisco now have whale meat daily on their menu.

Imported and Domestic Supplies.

The inspector in charge of the office of the Bureau of Animal Industry at Seattle, Wash., several months ago made to the chief of that bureau a report from which the following is extracted:

Ever since the Bureau of Animal Industry regulations governing imported meats have been in force it has been noted that considerable quantities of canned whale meat have been imported through this port. Recently fresh whale meat obtained from American waters has been disposed of in quantities at retail meat markets in Seattle, and yesterday Canadian steamship companies as well as United States local customs authorities inquired regarding inspection and regulations covering whale meat derived from animals caught in Canadian waters and proffered for import through this port. They were referred to the local Bureau of Chemistry, United States Department of Agriculture, for advice.

Fresh and canned whale meat, in my judgment, when properly handled and under sanitary conditions, is a wholesome food and a valuable adjunct in the Nation's meat dietary at all times. A supply on this market of a few tons was rapidly disposed of at a price of 10 cents a pound, which price toward the end of the supply was raised to 15 cents. The meat was sold in the market and consumed in the better classes of restaurants as steak under its true name; a part, I learn, was utilized in hamburger steak. A steak prepared at home was partaken of by three members of my family, having no previous knowledge of the character of the meat, as beef steak.

It seems proper to me to recognize whale meat as a factor in the country's meat supply, and as such to promulgate adequate provisions for the handling and distribution of it according to sanitary methods.

BUTTON FACTORY IN PANAMA.

[Consul General Alban G. Snyder, Panama City, Sept. 26.]

An American button company has established a branch factory in this city in the building formerly occupied by the Tropical Brewing Co. before its amalgamation with the Panama Brewing & Refrigerating Co.

While it is said to be the intention to establish eventually a complete button factory, American machinery has been installed so far only to cut the slabs of vegetable ivory for shipment to the United States.

PUBLICITY FOR COMMERCIAL INQUIRIES.*[Consul General J. I. Brittain, Sydney, Australia, Aug. 23.]*

It is the policy of the Sydney Chamber of Commerce to publish in its weekly leaflet the names of those who desire to purchase certain lines of merchandise in Australia, also of firms in foreign countries seeking to establish agencies in Australia. These are referred to in the leaflets by numbers, but interested persons may call at the chamber for particulars regarding inquiries.

When American business men write this consulate general for the purpose of obtaining agencies for the sale of Australian merchandise in the United States copies of their letters are sent to the Sydney Chamber of Commerce, as the letters concern a possible market for Australian products. Letters from American business men who seek markets in Australia are not, however, sent to the chamber, for the reason that they pertain to possible markets for American merchandise.

I notice, however, in the last number of the leaflet, inquiries from seven firms in Japan seeking markets in Australia. Now, that the United States has entered the war, possibly some American exporters would, aside from having names of dealers sent by American consular officers, desire also to have brief mention made to the chamber of commerce—in which event it is suggested that they so indicate in their letters when writing to this consulate general.

SINGAPORE DEMAND FOR CHEMICALS AND MACHINERY.

Additional details of the nature of the demand in Singapore for chemicals and for machinery to be used in the rubber industry, as mentioned in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for October 3, 1917, have been received from Consul Harry Campbell. The chemical products for which there is a good market are oxides of lead and zinc, flowers of sulphur, carbonate of magnesium, and soda. There is an opportunity to supply machinery for the complete manufacture of all such rubber goods as pneumatic tires, matting, and hose pipe (molded and fabric), and for the sale of black, yellow, and green pigments.

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NEW YORK: 784 Customhouse.
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SEATTLE: 248 Henry Building.

COOPERATIVE OFFICES.

CLEVELAND: Chamber of Commerce.
CINCINNATI: Chamber of Commerce.
CINCINNATI: General Freight Agent, Southern Railway, 96 Ingalls Building.
LOS ANGELES: Chamber of Commerce.
PHILADELPHIA: Chamber of Commerce.
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PORTLAND, OREG.: Chamber of Commerce.
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FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the **Bureau** and its **district and cooperative offices**. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and **state opportunity number**. The **Bureau** does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases. Symbols: * Reported by American consular officers; † Reported by commercial attaches and commercial agents; ‡ Direct inquiries received by the Bureau.

In considering the following "opportunities" regard should be had to the regulations requiring export licenses for certain articles.

Agricultural implements.....	25545	Hosiery.....	25547, 25548
Ball bearings.....	25546	Iron and steel products.....	25547
Canned goods.....	25545	Leather.....	25548
Cement.....	25545	Lumber.....	25545
Chemicals.....	25543	Machinery.....	25543, 25545, 25546
Coal.....	25545	Metals.....	25542, 25543, 25547
Compressors.....	25546	Oils.....	25545
Engines.....	25545	Pipes, tubes, and fittings.....	25547
Fezes.....	25548	Pumps.....	25546
Furnaces.....	25546	Surgical and hospital supplies.....	25550
General representation.....	25544	Tires.....	25547
Glassware.....	25547	Tools and machine tools.....	25546, 25547
Handkerchiefs, towels, and bedspreads.....	25548	Wheat.....	25545
Hardware.....	25545, 25547	Wire.....	25545, 25547

25542.†—A watch-manufacturing firm in Switzerland desires to be placed in communication with American manufacturers and exporters of nickel and steel for watches. Correspondence may be carried on through representative in the United States. Reference.

25543.*—A company in Canada wishes to be put in touch with American manufacturers and exporters of sawmill machinery, ships' machinery, steel-working machinery, metals, and chemicals. Quotations should be made f. o. b. factory. Payment will be made by cash against documents. Reference.

25544.†—A man in the Netherlands desires to represent American manufacturers and exporters in his country. He mentions no particular line. Correspondence may be in English. References.

25545.†—A company in Peru wishes to secure agencies for the sale of cement, lumber, galvanized barbed wire, hardware, agricultural implements, canned goods, lubricating oils, paints, linseed oil, ginning machinery, oil engines, coal, and wheat. Correspondence should be in Spanish. References.

25546.†—A firm in Italy desires to secure exclusive agencies for the sale of machine tools, small tools, etc. It also wishes to receive offers for building machinery, gas, carbon, and electric furnaces, ball bearings, pumps, compressors, special machinery, and technical articles for mechanical purposes. References.

25547.‡—A merchant in India desires to be placed in communication with American manufacturers and exporters of bolts, nuts, rivets, pulleys, hinges, nails, screws, washers, hangers, reamers, wrenches, drills, milling cutters, vises, saws, hammers; brass, copper, and steel tubing; iron and steel products, such as sheets, rods, rails, galvanized and corrugated sheets, pipefittings, tubes, and balling hoops; pipe fittings, such as couplings, nipples, elbows, tees, etc.; metals, such as lead, steel, brass, copper, aluminum, and tin; wire, such as steel, iron, brass, copper, annealed, barbed, rope, and galvanized; automobile and bicycle tires, hosiery, glassware, etc. References.

25548.*—A firm in British East Africa is in the market for round red felt fezes with black tassels, all kinds of plain and fancy hosiery for men and women, plain and assorted cheap cotton bedspreads, cheap and medium priced bath towels, and white and colored cotton handkerchiefs. Payment will be made by sight draft with bill of lading attached. Quotations are preferred in English sterling. Goods should be packed in extra strong cases with waterproof lining and wrapping. References.

25549.*—A company in England desires to purchase boot and shoe leather, sole leather, glacé kids, etc., for the Indian and Chinese market. Quotations should be made f. o. b. New York. Cash will be paid in the United States. Reference.

25550.*—A wholesaler in Italy wishes to purchase or secure an agency for the sale of all kinds of surgical or hospital supplies, orthopedic supplies, glass vessels for surgical uses, and all kinds of rubber surgical supplies. Correspondence should be in French or Italian.

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No. 238

Washington, D. C., Thursday, October 11

1917

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FROST DESTROYS DURANGO CROPS.

Vice Consul William P. Blocker, of Piedras Negras, Mexico, wires from Eagle Pass, Tex., under date of October 8, that report from Torreon advises frost in the mountains of Durango, indicating that the bean and late corn crops are destroyed.

FRESH CALIFORNIA EGGS IN NEW ZEALAND.

[Consul General Alfred A. Winslow, Auckland, Aug. 21.]

Recently 100,000 dozen eggs were landed in Wellington from California, and sold readily in that market at 54 cents a dozen. There is no further present demand for fresh eggs, but there should be a good opening about May and June next year, the off season here.

RIO DE JANEIRO FEARS FAMINE IN STRUCTURAL STEEL.

[Consul General Alfred L. M. Gottschalk, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Aug. 25.]

Interviews with several iron and steel importers of Rio de Janeiro disclose a general belief on the part of the best informed among them that within four or five months there will be a complete famine of structural iron and steel and of iron and steel goods generally in this city. Several of the more careful of these importers are quietly buying up all the old iron and steel they can find, with a view to facing this expected situation.

It is interesting in this connection to observe that there is a noticeable revival of interest in certain projects which have been for a long time under consideration here to establish a domestic steel industry.

A few days ago the representative of an American company arrived here, bringing with him machinery that had been ordered by the Government-owned Central Railroad of Brazil for a large steel plant to be erected at some point on the lines of the railroad.

[Articles on iron and steel markets in Brazil were published in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for Jan. 31 and Sept. 24, 1917. Iron deposits in that country were described in the issue of Nov. 6, 1915.]

ICE AND COLD STORAGE PLANT NEAR COLON.

[Consul Julius D. Dreher, Colon, Panama, Sept. 26.]

In carrying out its plans to make the Canal Zone self-supporting as far as possible, the commissary division of the Panama Canal finds it necessary to have some larger buildings; one for an ice-manufacturing and cold-storage plant, another for a warehouse, and a third for a slaughterhouse. Work has just been begun on the first of these buildings, a large ice and cold-storage plant in Cristobal, Canal Zone, just outside the city of Colon. This will be of reinforced concrete construction, three stories high, 330 feet long, and 105 feet wide. On the first floor will be the ice factory to make 150 tons a day, the ice-cream plant to make 500 gallons a day, and the freezers for meats. On the second floor will be the mixing room for making ice cream and storage rooms for vegetables, fruits, milk, butter, cheese, eggs, and cured and pickled meats. On the third floor will be the sausage factory, chill rooms for 300 beef carcasses, and coolers with a capacity for 6,000 beef carcasses and 1,000 hogs. This big plant is to serve as a supply depot for the 17 commissary stores throughout the Canal Zone. It is expected that the building will be completed within a year at an estimated cost of \$750,000. By using electricity instead of steam in operating it a saving of \$35,000 a year will be effected.

Some idea of the immense business done through this supply depot and its 17 retail stores may be gained from the following figures. The sales for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1917, totaled \$8,780,000, of which the sales to ships passing through the canal amounted to \$381,600. The quantities of the principal articles consumed monthly were as follows: Beef (native), 600,000 pounds; other fresh meats, 150,000 pounds; flour, 675,000 pounds; rice, 184,000 pounds; Irish potatoes, 650,000 pounds; sweet potatoes, 90,000 pounds; sugar, 450,000 pounds; coffee, 40,000 pounds; fresh butter, 36,000 pounds; eggs, 62,000 dozen; fresh milk, 12,000 gallons; ice cream, 15,000 gallons; and bread, 650,000 loaves.

Beef Cattle from Colombia—Dairy to be Enlarged.

Four years ago the commissary division began the experiment of importing beef cattle from Costa Rico and Colombia, chiefly from the latter country. During the last fiscal year it imported from Colombia 15,669 head of cattle, besides 384 hogs, 34,547 chickens, 2,795 turkeys, and 654 ducks. During the year 13,180 Colombian beefs were slaughtered, making 7,118,800 pounds of dressed beef. Very little beef is now bought from the United States, since the native beef, as it is called, is good and cheaper than that imported in cold storage.

The pastures in the Canal Zone now embrace 23,000 acres, on which 6,000 cattle are grazed. It is expected that the number will be increased to 20,000 head within two years. A dairy for 340 cows is now under construction near Colon (see *COMMERCE REPORTS* for Aug. 31, 1917). It is proposed to enlarge this dairy to such an extent as to produce all the fresh milk needed in the Canal Zone. The commissary division maintains in all 15 farms for corn, vegetables, fruits, hogs, chickens, etc. The commissary service is maintained to supply

the wants of employees on the Canal Zone at reasonable prices, without any intent of making profits.

All material and equipment imported for the new plant will be purchased through the Chief of Office, the Panama Canal, Washington, D. C.

TANNERS MOVE NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS TO CAPITAL.

The board of directors of the National Association of Tanners has directed that the headquarters of the organization be moved from Boston, Mass., to Washington, in order that it may be in a better position to render effective service to the United States Government during the period of the war. Vice President V. A. Wallin of the association, who is in charge of the office at the National Capital, informs the Department of Commerce that the Patent and Enameled Leather Manufacturers' Association and the Morocco Manufacturers' National Association are cooperating with the tanners and that the three organizations will join in offices at 806-7-8 Union Trust Building, Washington, D. C. In his announcement Mr. Wallin states:

These associations represent probably 95 per cent of the leather industry in the United States. We are here for the purpose of relating the industry to the Government, and to perform every service possible to the Government in the present emergency. The president of our association, Mr. Lesh, has spent a great deal of time during the past few months in Washington. His business, however, will not permit him to spend all of his time here, much as he would like to do so. Because of this the vice president has been asked to go to Washington, and now is permanently located in the city in charge of the office. Mr. C. F. C. Stout, the president of the Morocco Manufacturers' National Association, will be in the office representing the kid-leather industry, at least part of the time.

GUADELOUPE'S COFFEE CROP PROMISING.

[Consul Henry T. Wilcox, Guadeloupe, French West Indies, Sept. 26.]

According to present indications, Guadeloupe coffee planters will harvest a crop much larger than that of 1916. Last year's crop having been somewhat below the average, it is safe to say that the coming one will probably exceed the normal production of 1,375,000 pounds. Climatic conditions have been very favorable throughout the year for the growth of the coffee, and the two worst months of the hurricane season have passed without any damage having been done to the ripening berries. Picking will commence the latter part of October and will probably continue until the last of January.

It has been stated that the scarcity of labor will somewhat hinder the harvesting of the crop, but the fact that the wages of laborers have not been increased seems to show that this scarcity is not a serious menace. The usual pay is 1.50 francs (26 cents at present exchange) per day for the women and 1.75 francs (30 cents) for men.

Very little difficulty has been experienced in securing cargo space in French vessels for last season's crop of coffee, almost all of which has already been shipped to France, and the exporters feel no apprehension on this score concerning the coming crop. Guadeloupe coffee is selling now in France for 230 francs per 50 kilos (\$0.36 per pound), and it is not expected that there will be any great change in price during 1918.

BRITISH BRASS MASTERS URGED TO COMBINE.

[Consul E. Haldeman Dennison, Birmingham, Sept. 19.]

The British Brass Masters' Association, at an important meeting in Birmingham, heard addresses dealing with export trade after the war by Mr. L. A. Paish, representing the Department of Commercial Intelligence, and Mr. C. Hamilton Wickes, British Trade Commissioner in Canada.

The idea of the new department of the Board of Trade, said Mr. Paish, was to get under centralized control the machinery for furnishing information to the commercial community in this country. After explaining the cartel system in Germany, the speaker said that the Government of that country was making a vigorous attempt to get all its manufacturers into syndicates, and was urging upon them that the only way they could regain their place "in the sun" was by adopting that form of trading.

Declares Trade Combination Necessary.

The policy of the Board of Trade after investigating the question, he said, was that if British manufacturers were going to increase their export trade after the war, if they were even going to regain the trade lost, it was essential to get together in some sort of trade combination. They were prepared to face the question of trusts or combines. If they were to make a stand against combinations in other countries it would be necessary for them to adopt methods somewhat similar to those which were employed abroad. If the brass trades of Birmingham were to combine, manufacturers would be able to give their attention to a small range of articles. They would make a large number of a small variety.

He added that there were many other advantages. One was the possibility that a trade combination covering the whole of the Birmingham brass masters would be able to undertake the systematic investigation of any definite market they wanted to attack. The department he represented was prepared to cooperate in every possible way in such an endeavor, even to the extent of finding financial assistance in the sending out of such a representative. Its intention was to give to manufacturers and traders in this country all the assistance that they could reasonably expect in the development of export trade.

Claims Advantage in Power to "Dump."

Another popular advantage of combination was the power it afforded to "dump" if required. The department had instructed him to take steps which would assist the formation of a trade association of brass masters. The form of the combination—the cartel or the full merger type—was a matter for themselves. If they were to live in the trade after the war, against the organized competition of Germany, America, and Japan, it was essential that they combine. If they did not combine they would go under.

Mr. Wickes said that unless there was intelligent national co-operation among those engaged in British industries, they would stand to be decimated by more progressive competitors. The war would cease some day, and then the country whose manufacturers were ready, and prepared to consider intelligently and act skilfully

in dealing with the problems to be faced, would get a great start over the others.

After dealing with some of the problems of sale, the speaker referred to the extensive buying of raw materials in Germany. There was no question in his mind, he said, that what had been done in the past by German manufacturers in certain lines was going to be done by the whole nation—they would purchase as one body all the raw material that was required from outside countries for vital industries.

Effect of Purchases in Large Quantities.

"Conceive," he said, "of the German Government instructing all manufacturers to place before it their requirements for the next six months and then going into the market prepared to purchase 200,000,000 weight of copper at once. Is it not high time that manufacturers of any particular article in this country should get together?" He was confident that, given the cooperation of the association, the commercial flag could be carried forward in every quarter of the globe.

Many questions were asked and answered at the conclusion of the speeches, and with a view to further development on the lines indicated, a resolution was passed appointing a committee of the various sections of the brass trades.

[A description of the reorganization of the British Commercial Intelligence Service was published in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for Sept. 29, 1917.]

EXPLOITATION OF FISHERY PRODUCTS IN THE SOUTH.

In an effort to increase the production and consumption of smoked fish in the South Atlantic and Gulf States, the United States Bureau of Fisheries has detailed Arthur Orr and Templeton Van de Bogert to give demonstrations of the methods of smoking fish at various places in that region. They are equipped with a small portable smokehouse of recent design built especially for the purpose, and are prepared to instruct those desirous of developing this phase of the fisheries. They are also giving special attention to the smoking of menhaden and sharks, and will experiment with various species common to the region to determine the suitability of such forms to this method of treatment.

At Beaufort, N. C., bonito, menhaden, whiting, mullet, and shrimp were smoked. The smoked shrimp were found to be especially palatable, and if it proves practicable to pickle this product and smoke it as demanded by the trade, there is a possibility of considerable development in this field. Arrangements were made for shipping samples to New Bern and Goldsboro in order to familiarize dealers, members of home canning clubs, and other local organizations with the merits of this product.

Members of one of the large fishing companies located near Wilmington, N. C., have become interested in the smoking of fish and are assembling materials preparatory to building a smokehouse. While in Wilmington the bureau's agents made arrangements to furnish the fire and police departments with sample lots of smoked fish.

POSSIBLE SHORTAGE OF JUTE SUPPLY.

[Consul H. Abert Johnson, Dundee, Scotland, Sept. 11.]

All spinners have now received official notice of the quantity of jute apportioned to them by the steamers sailing from Calcutta during the three months which end with December. It is reported that the supply is to be appreciably short of the requirements of many of the spinners, and, in a number of cases, the shortage is said to be something like 12 to 16 per cent. It is said that there may be sufficient jute for immediate needs, but there are misgivings regarding the supplies for January, February, and March if the majority of the spinners are 12 per cent short of their consumption in the last three months of 1917.

First marks were reported done at \$102.19 and \$104.62, f. o. b. Calcutta, October shipment. Tossa 2's were being offered at \$107.06 and Daisee 2's at \$103.40, f. o. b. Calcutta. An indication of the price of Heart MD 2's was given. The spinners await freight permits for the apportioned jute. There is no intimation of a steamer being fixed for the last load of old crop, so it can not arrive here until nearly the end of the year.

Effect Upon Yarn Section.

This seeming awkwardness about obtaining a sufficiency of jute in time has told, and is bound to tell further, upon the yarn section. Common 8-pound cops were done this afternoon in bulk at \$1.17 and spools at \$1.21 for November-December delivery, and there is rather an urgent demand for January-March; but spinners are raising their prices for this position, and some of them quote \$1.21 for cops and \$1.25 for spools, and the market is going quickly in that direction.

Dutch weft is gaining fast upon hessian quality, and for 24-pound \$0.14½ was done oftener than once, though \$0.14 per pound was also accepted. Sacking weft was also sold, though it is only by chance that it is to be obtained. The figure paid was \$0.134. Three-ply 8-pound was recently sold at the record price of \$0.16½, though \$0.15½ was possible. One lea yarn is also increasing at a speedy rate. It made \$283.87, although \$272.52 was also accepted. A better quality of cop (say, \$0.01 per spyndle superior) brought \$1.19. Four-pound weft is in pressing demand, and after being entered at \$0.97 brought \$1.03 and \$1.09, and at this last in substantial lots.

There are inquiries of importance for narrow tarpaulins, 9-ounce 36-inch and 40-inch hessians, and for 8½-ounce; for the latter \$0.12½ basis is quoted. The changing by the Government of the 72-inch hessian position has had a salutary influence on the hessian trade.

Hessian Quotations.

The rate given for 11-porter 10½-ounce 40-inch hessian was \$0.14 to \$0.14½; 10-porter 10-ounce 40-inch \$0.13½ to \$0.13¾; 9½-ounce 40-inch, \$0.13½ to \$0.13¾; 9-ounce 40-inch, \$0.12½ to \$0.13 per yard; 11-porter 10½-ounce for 40-inch, 48 to 60 inch, \$0.14 to \$0.14½; 72-inch, \$0.14½ to \$0.14½; 10-porter floorcloth hessian, \$0.13½ to \$0.14; light 40-inch hessian, \$0.11½ to \$0.11¾; for 8-ounce 48 to 60 inch, \$0.11½ to \$0.12; 72-inch and upward, \$0.12 to \$0.12½.

Mangled hessians, \$0.15 to \$0.15½ basis; 7-porter 18-ounce 45-inch double-warp bagging, \$0.18½ to \$0.19; 8-porter 16-ounce 27-inch

twilled sacking, \$0.16½ to \$0.17; 10-porter 20-ounce 28-inch, \$0.23 to \$0.23½; 14-porter 18-ounce 36-inch double-warp tarpaulin, \$0.23 to \$0.23½ per yard.

Calcutta 10-ounce 40-inch hessians could be done at \$13.38, and 8-ounce 40-inch at \$10.94, though some have withdrawn their 10-ounce 40-inch at the figure named. It was reported upon the market, with what purported to be official authority, that no more gunnies are to be shipped from Calcutta until the end of the war.

Flax and Tow—Italian Hemp.

Flax and tow are arriving in Great Britain at something like the old rate. The reports upon the Slanetz flax are not invariably satisfactory, but the water-retted is up to the market; in fact, is exceptionally good in spinning quality.

The Admiralty is credited with the purchase of 1,200 tons of hemp from the Italian merchants at 425 lire, c. and f. England. The quality of the new crop is most favorably reported upon. It leaves little to be desired. The Naples crop for color seems to be first rate. Labor is short, and there is delay in bringing the crop to market, and exorbitant prices are being paid by local spinners and hacklers.

PETROLEUM REFINING IN VENEZUELA.

[Consul Homer Brett, La Guaira, Sept. 17.]

The Caribbean Petroleum Co., an American corporation, has presented to Gen. Juan Vicente Gomez the first barrel of gasoline extracted from Venezuelan oil. The company's refinery at San Lorenzo, a town 60 miles south of Maracaibo, began operation on August 16, and is expected to supply a large proportion of Venezuela's consumption of gasoline and kerosene. As these commodities have been important articles of importation from the United States, American trade with this country will be somewhat affected. Importations of kerosene, all of American origin, for recent years have been: In 1913, 5,877 tons gross weight, valued at \$187,104; in 1914, 5,319 tons, value \$171,411; in 1915, 5,517 tons, value \$176,835; and in the first six months of 1916, 2,592 tons, worth \$85,816.

While imports of kerosene have been practically stationary, those of gasoline have been rapidly increasing, the figures being: 1913, 700 tons, value \$51,823; 1914, 979 tons, value \$73,433; 1915, 1,402 tons, value \$101,604; and for the first half of 1916, 1,065 tons, value \$97,493.

On kerosene, freight from New York is 4.5 cents and the import duty 25.5 cents per gallon, the apparent advantage of the local manufacturer being thus 30 cents per gallon; on gasoline the duty is only 5.10 cents but the present freight is 15 cents. The real advantage of the local manufacturer is not so great, as royalties and high manufacturing costs reduce it materially.

The San Lorenzo refinery is for Venezuelan trade only; the exportation of products of this country's oil fields will be made through the large refinery on the island of Curazao.

**EVERY PATRIOT is Expected to Invest in the Second Issue of
THE LIBERTY LOAN.**

CANNING OF EVAPORATED VEGETABLES IN BRITISH COLUMBIA.

[Consul General George N. West, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, Sept. 10.]

The plant of the Chilliwack Evaporating & Packing Co. at Chilliwack, British Columbia, was recently inspected. Six different vegetables are combined in a product known as the "Julienne mixture." These are first-quality carrots, turnips, potatoes, onions, peas, and beans.

The vegetables are evaporated separately after being properly prepared, as each requires a different amount of heat in its preparation. After evaporation has been completed the combination is made up for a tin containing 15 pounds, with 3 pounds of carrots, $2\frac{1}{2}$ of turnips, $2\frac{1}{2}$ of potatoes, 1 of onions, 3 of peas, and 3 of beans.

Previous to this year the peas and beans were ground before being added to the combination, but it was found that this did not give satisfaction.

Each Can is Weighed Separately.

When the mixture of vegetables has been thoroughly made, tin cans with an oblong shape, each with a large opening in one end, are filled and taken to the scales. Each can is separately weighed, so that the full quantity of 15 pounds of vegetables may be assured. A tin cover is placed over the opening and hermetically soldered. The cans are lacquered to keep them from rusting and are marked. Two of the tins are placed in a strong wooden case, properly marked with the name of the factory and the number of the package under the company's contract. It is then ready for shipment to the inspection officer at Montreal.

This factory uses vegetables grown in the immediate vicinity with the exception of onions, some of which are procured from the Okanagan district of British Columbia, and some from the United States. The Chilliwack district is able to produce only about 20 tons.

The factory has a contract for 1,000,000 pounds to be delivered from January 1 to December 31, 1917, and one of the proprietors states that not a single can of its products has failed to pass the close examination of the British inspector at Montreal.

Vegetables Available in District.

It is estimated by those who are informed on the subject that there will be available in the Chilliwack district, 150 acres of carrots, 300 acres of turnips, and peas and beans in sufficient quantities to meet the present requirements, and leave a surplus for other orders. The acreage of potatoes is considered to be 100 per cent more than in 1916, amounting approximately to 2,000 acres.

There are several other evaporating plants in British Columbia, including the British Columbia Products Co., which is the largest of these and has plants in several localities, and the Dominion Products Co. Both have their main offices in Vancouver.

Returns of Danish Banks.

According to a statement issued by the Provincial Bankers' Association of Denmark, the combined receipts and disbursements of 116 banks for the first six months of 1917 were \$12,030,000, compared with \$15,240,000 for the same period in 1916 and \$5,200,000 in 1915.

COTTON BALING AND THE SHIPPING SHORTAGE.

[Consul General Robert P. Skinner, London, England, Sept. 18.]

Since many years American consular officers in Europe have called attention, at intervals, to the objectionable size and density of the American cotton bale, and the present writer made a report upon this subject as far back as 15 years ago. At present the demand for an American bale of greater density is based upon the very urgent need to economize shipping by every possible means. In what light the matter is regarded in Great Britain will be perceived from an article by William H. Taylor in the *Textile Recorder* of current date. The burden of Mr. Taylor's argument is that if American cotton were baled to the density of Indian or Chinese cotton more than double the quantity of the material could be carried in the tonnage now available. Portions of Mr. Taylor's article follow:

Of all sea-borne commodities passing between American and European ports, cotton offers the most promising field for economy in freightage requirements. Indeed, there is no other bulk commodity which offers anything like the possibility of being squeezed into less compass without injury to itself. In order to present the supply problem clearly, we shall deal with steamers of 5,000 tons deadweight capacity, excluding coal bunkering, passengers, crew, and baggage, and, for the purposes of our figures, we assume a freight ton to be 40 cubic feet so that a steamer of 5,000 tons would have a capacity of 200,000 cubic feet. We shall also assume that it is desired to carry 6,000,000 tons of cotton to European ports from America. The other factors in the problem, for comparison, are American bales compressed to a density of 22 pounds per cubic feet, Egyptian to 37 pounds, and Indian and Chinese (which normally range between 45 to 60 pounds) to 56 pounds. Therefore, 22-pound-density American bales would occupy 102 cubic feet per ton; Egyptian 37-pound, 60 cubic feet per ton; and Indian and Chinese, 40 cubic feet per ton.

From these figures it will be seen that a 5,000-ton vessel could carry 1,960 tons of American cotton, 3,333 tons of Egyptian, or 5,000 tons of Indian or Chinese cotton. Therefore the number of vessels required to carry 6,000,000 tons of cotton would be: American, 3,061 vessels; Egyptian, 1,800 vessels; Indian or Chinese, 1,200 vessels. The saving effected by carrying bales of Egyptian density instead of American is thus shown to be 1,261 vessels; if carrying Indian or Chinese density bales, as against American, the saving would be 1,861 vessels. In these compilations we have assumed that the vessels each make one voyage at full capacity, but if each is capable of making 12 round voyages per annum then the number of vessels required for the cotton service would be as follows: For carrying American 22-pound-density bales, 255 vessels; for Egyptian 37-pound-density bales, 150 vessels; and for carrying Indian and Chinese 56-pound-density bales, 100 vessels. In one case, therefore, we have a saving of 105 vessels, and in the other 155.

PRODUCTION OF SALT IN NEW ZEALAND.

[Consul General Alfred A. Winslow, Auckland, Aug. 21.]

The question of producing salt from sea water in New Zealand is being considered. The imports of salt have averaged about 24,000 tons during the past five years, worth about \$350,388 annually, and the demand is on the increase. Most of the imports came from Australia in the past, although Germany supplied some previous to 1914.

It is claimed that sea water in Cook Strait near Wellington, New Zealand, contains 3.33 per cent of sodium chloride, and it is proposed to use hydroelectric power in developing the industry.

INCREASED VOLUME OF HONGKONG-AMERICAN TRADE.

[Consul General George E. Anderson, Hongkong, British China, July 9.]

The declared exports from Hongkong to the United States for the first half of 1917 were valued at \$7,956,287 as compared with \$5,363,000 in the same period of 1916, \$3,019,248 in 1915, \$2,630,258 in 1914, and smaller returns in previous years. The record for the first six months amounted to substantially twice the exports from the colony to the United States in the whole of any previous normal year. The declared exports to the Philippines amounted to \$2,310,679 as compared with \$2,157,334 a year ago, while those to Hawaii increased from \$150,971 to \$185,660.

This record arises partly from higher values but mostly from increased volume of trade. It is in keeping with that steady gain in the trade with the United States which has characterized the trade of Hongkong for the past eight years and which has been accentuated and accelerated during the war in Europe. Aside from trade with America the business of the port has changed little from the volume of the last half of 1916.

High prices abroad for cotton, flour, kerosene, steel, and other staples and increasingly high freights have served to reduce imports in spite of the constant stimulation of the high exchange value of silver, while high freights and closed ports in Europe have continued to hold exports down to a minimum. War conditions, of course, have affected credits, and general uncertainty has prevented extended trading or the beginning of new enterprises. In many lines of imports it is practically impossible to secure deliveries because of conditions in the United States and Europe, this being particularly true as regards steel and metal goods generally and most kinds of machinery, especially electrical machinery and materials. From the United States, however, imports in most of these lines have continued far above normal.

Imports of Flour and Kerosene.

Imports of flour from the United States have dropped almost to normal volume. The general high price of flour simply takes the product out of the reach of the Chinese buyer, and he uses rice, pea flour, millet, or other grain food instead. Arrivals of flour for the half year are placed at 495,656 bags, mostly Japanese and Chinese. The Japanese have most of the trade at present, their product representing Manchurian wheat. Chinese flour has not come into the market to as great an extent as anticipated and present prospects do not promise a good season this year. Considerable Japanese-Manchurian flour is going to Europe by way of Hongkong. There is on hand at the close of the half year a stock of 230,000 bags of flour as compared with an average of perhaps five times that quantity in normal years.

Kerosene imports also have been far below normal because of the high prices in the United States and other producing countries and the high freights. In South China, too, this trade, which is peculiarly the prey of pirates, suffers greatly. American oil holds its own with the product of other countries, but the trade is generally restricted.

Piece Goods and Yarn Market.

The piece-goods market has been very restricted. Old stocks have been generally cleared up and some new orders have been placed, but prices are so high and the future so uncertain that dealers take only such goods as are required for immediate use. The cotton-yarn market has generally followed the same course. Japanese yarns are still supplanting Indian and British large count yarns and American knitting yarns. The increasing price of cotton has held dealings to a minimum. The United States has little trade in any phase of the cotton business of China, although its interests in the market are great since considerable American cotton gets into it one way or another.

American Steel Products.

In steel and steel products the United States has sold more goods in this market than ever before in a similar period. It is difficult, if not impossible, to secure deliveries of any such goods or materials from the Atlantic coast of the United States, and the result has been that much, if not most, of this business in iron and steel has been with Pacific coast mills. This export trade from Pacific coast establishments has been one of the notable features of the development of Hongkong-American trade in the past three years in several important lines of products.

While there has been decreased import of staple American products like flour and kerosene into this field, the increased trade in iron and steel and other metals, in food products of all kinds, in drugs, chemicals, leather goods—in short in nearly all other lines of trade, has more than made up the difference, and the total exports from the United States to the South China field so far this year have doubtless been the largest in the history of the trade.

Exports to United States and Europe.

Exports to Europe on the whole have remained in about the same volume as in the last half of 1916, which were far below normal, but still quite profitable as far as the trade goes.

Rice exports figure among the largest items on the list. Exports to Europe are not important, but those to the United States and Canada show an increase in volume and comparative value. Exports of tin to Europe increased from about 26,000 to 29,000 slabs, while those to the United States increased from about 11,000 to 13,000 slabs. Exports of raw and waste silk to Europe were much greater than for the first six months of 1916. Shipments of essential oils to Europe decreased from 4,600 to 3,400 cases, while those to the United States increased from 3,000 to 4,600 cases. Shipments of mats and matting to Europe remained in almost exactly the same volume as last year, while those to the United States increased about 35 per cent. Shipments of all forms of cassia both to Europe and the United States fell off materially; also of human hair, although the New York market took an increased amount of long hair as compared with a year ago. There was also an all-around decrease in shipments of rattan and rattanware, canes, chinaware, fans, fire crackers, and the general run of sundries. Europe took less ginger, preserves, and foods for the use of Chinese abroad, while the United States took a larger

volume of such goods than it did in the first half of 1916. There has been a large increase in the export of peanuts, both to the United States and Europe, and the former has commenced to take about all the peanut oil it can get. The transit trade was much below normal because of the short supply of shipping and the comparatively restricted movement of freight generally.

Exports to the United States have hinged largely upon the volume and value of the trade in tin and rice, the two chief items of export from Hongkong to the United States, and these items show big increases, that of rice from \$2,173,921 to \$2,586,166, while the increased value of tin was \$2,318,555 as compared with \$1,122,242 for the first six months of 1916. There was also a notable increase in the value of peanut shipments, which rose from \$172,473 to \$531,322. There were increases in practically all other items on the list except cassia, timber, seagrass furniture, leather, and a few minor items. The decrease in cassia is more apparent than real, the shipments for the first half of last year being exceptionally large.

Declared Exports to the United States.

The following table gives the declared exports from Hongkong to the United States for the six months ended June 30, 1917, compared with the same period in 1916:

Articles.	6 months ended June 30—		Articles.	6 months ended June 30—	
	1916	1917		1916	1917
Antimony.....	\$91,960	\$97,054	Paper and manufactures of..	24,624	51,592
Antiquities.....	5,679	8,723	Seeds.....	5,984	7,476
Breadstuffs: Rice.....	2,173,921	2,586,166	Silk and manufactures of....	49,304	72,842
Bristles.....	21,965	59,560	Spices:		
Chemicals.....	70,064	108,019	Cassia.....	320,577	164,224
Cotton and manufactures of.	7,613	10,276	Pepper.....		122,959
Earthenware and chinaware.	20,822	39,147	Spirits, wines.....	57,570	109,484
Edible substances.....	16,275	34,081	Sugar.....	19,671	21,657
Explosives: Fireworks.....	28,452	36,755	Tea.....	57,768	105,707
Fish.....	75,267	97,847	Tin.....	1,122,242	2,318,555
Ginger, preserved.....	29,249	49,769	Tobacco.....	51,474	99,571
Hair and manufactures of....	24,579	68,502	Vegetables.....	132,243	180,862
Hides.....	60,899	197,068	Wood:		
Leathers.....	26,552	12,825	Manufactured.....	78,154	69,722
Meat and dairy products.....	24,151	22,854	Unmanufactured.....	211,745	105,006
Moss and seagrass, seagrass			All other articles.....	182,696	247,223
furniture.....	24,418	16,882			
Oil:			Total.....	5,363,000	7,956,287
Peanut.....	28,158	123,989			
Aniseed.....	67,511	139,892			
Cassia.....	71,548	66,266			
Peanuts.....	172,473	531,322			

Exports to the Philippine Islands.

Exports from Hongkong to the Philippines show a fair increase in spite of the fact that the export of rice fell from \$1,095,181 to \$569,590. There were a few notable increases like that of cotton goods from \$132,715 to \$363,781, but the increase was due to advances of trade all along the line, the Philippines evidently finding it advantageous, because of freight and other war conditions, to buy more general goods from Hongkong than from the United States and Europe direct. The satisfactory increase in the exports of unmanufactured silk indicates increasing prosperity in the Philippine cloth

weaving industries. There was a notable falling off in the exports of various food products, due to the good crops in the Philippines this year.

The declared exports to the islands for the first six months of the past two years have been as follows:

Articles.	6 months ended June 30—		Articles.	6 months ended June 30—	
	1916	1917		1916	1917
Animals: Cattle.....	\$51,096	\$5,577	Oil: Peanut.....	\$28,205	\$42,406
Breadstuffs: Rice.....	1,095,181	569,590	Paper.....		21,474
Cement.....	21,141	40,425	Silk:		
Chemicals.....	19,177	36,843	Manufactured.....	23,877	32,446
Cotton, and manufactures of.....	132,715	363,781	Unmanufactured.....	92,650	144,796
Earthenware and chinaware.....	17,184	23,232	Straw, and manufactures of..	5,657	3,202
Eggs.....	184,021	163,016	Sugar.....	10,274	5,912
Fish.....	36,998	48,337	Tea.....	4,887	7,338
Fruits and nuts.....	44,878	49,973	Tobacco.....	4,270	5,447
Glass and glassware.....	9,011	6,883	Vegetables.....	81,807	51,484
Matches.....	33,804	67,107	Wood, and manufactures of..	15,817	21,146
Meat and dairy products.....	133,300	149,054	All other articles.....	87,076	420,771
Metals and manufactures of..	10,559	26,805			
Motion pictures.....	13,789	3,634	Total.....	2,157,334	2,310,679

Exports to Hawaii.

Exports from Hongkong to Hawaii increased from \$150,971 to \$185,660, mostly because of the higher valuation of goods generally and fair gains in the shipment of Chinese wines, peanut oil, and a few miscellaneous items. The exports in detail were as follows for the first six months of 1916 and 1917:

Articles.	6 months ended June 30—		Articles.	6 months ended June 30—	
	1916	1917		1916	1917
Breadstuffs: Rice.....	\$6,754	\$4,138	Seeds.....	\$2,315	\$924
Chemicals.....	8,373	7,207	Silk and manufactures of.....	8,089	10,206
Cotton and manufactures of.....	1,506	1,664	Spirits, wines.....	19,925	32,050
Earthenware and chinaware.....	1,923	4,205	Straw and manufactures of.....	2,280	2,245
Edible substances.....	1,210	1,079	Sugar.....	1,435	974
Eggs.....	4,745	5,363	Tea.....	13,937	12,345
Explosives: Fireworks.....	1,700	481	Tobacco.....	2,918	4,071
Fish.....	19,345	19,220	Vegetables.....	15,591	12,804
Fruits and nuts.....	10,205	13,197	Wood, and manufactures of.....	2,267	5,024
Meat and dairy products.....	11,242	3,647	All other articles.....	5,495	15,580
Metal.....	450	511			
Oil: Peanut.....	6,579	24,504	Total.....	150,971	185,660
Paper.....	2,647	2,561			

OFFICES OF THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE.

DISTRICT OFFICES.

NEW YORK: 734 Customhouse.
 BOSTON: 1801 Customhouse.
 CHICAGO: 504 Federal Building.
 ST. LOUIS: 402 Third National Bank Building.
 NEW ORLEANS: 1020 Hibernia Bank Building.
 SAN FRANCISCO: 307 Customhouse.
 SEATTLE: 848 Henry Building.

COOPERATIVE OFFICES.

CLEVELAND: Chamber of Commerce.
 CINCINNATI: Chamber of Commerce.
 CINCINNATI: General Freight Agent, Southern
 Railway, 96 Ingalls Building.
 LOS ANGELES: Chamber of Commerce.
 PHILADELPHIA: Chamber of Commerce.
 CHATTANOOGA: South American Agent, South-
 ern Railway System.
 PORTLAND, OREG.: Chamber of Commerce.
 DAYTON: Greater Dayton Association.

WEST INDIAN FLOUR SUBSTITUTES.

[Consul Henry D. Baker, Trinidad, British West Indies, Aug. 29.]

The Department of Agriculture of Trinidad has just published an important bulletin concerning local experiments to determine whether meals suitable for bread making could be prepared from locally grown products such as bananas and the chief vegetable root crops.

The products that yield useful meals are: Unripe bananas and plantains, all varieties including the real banana or red fig which is not generally used here for human food, tannias, dasheens, sweet potatoes, yams, and breadfruit. The yield of meal ranges from 20 per cent (breadfruit) to about 33 per cent (dasheen) of the weight of the raw product. All the meals can readily be prepared by simple methods and without the use of any expensive machinery, so that their manufacture is practicable in any household. The cost of preparation of the meals (labor only) is about 1½ cents to 2½ cents per pound; these figures are for making the meals on a small scale.

Important Saving of Wheat by Use of Substitutes—Methods of Preparation.

The bread-making tests show that all the meals, excepting breadfruit, make a very palatable bread mixed with equal parts of wheat flour, and a quite palatable but rather heavier bread when two parts of the meals are used to one of flour. The bread can be made either with yeast or baking powder.

An indication of the economy which can be effected by making and using these meals as a flour adjunct is given by the following experimental result: A set of loaves was made using in the preparations of each 4 ounces of wheat flour which at the current price cost 2 cents. With this was mixed 4 ounces of one of the meals. The weights of the loaves shortly after they were baked were: Tanñia, 12 ounces; banana, 12 ounces; dasheen, 14 ounces; sweet potatoes, 14 ounces; breadfruit, 14 ounces; and cassava farine, 12 ounces. Wheat bread at present schedule prices costs in Trinidad 2 cents for a 4-ounce loaf.

The report states also that the meals either alone or mixed with wheat flour make excellent scones; with flour, as in the case of bread, they make good cakes; they also make good porridge, milk puddings, etc. Banana meal biscuits are known in Europe, and the meals could thus be used in biscuit making also. There are many other ways in which they can be employed in place of flour.

In the preparation of the meals there is a preliminary stage in which they are in the form of thin, dry slices known as "chips." Dasheen and sweet potato can be kept in this form for several months and recooked as vegetables after soaking the "chips" in water.

To make these meals and place them on the market on a large scale would necessitate drying apparatus and other machinery.

The Making of Banana Bread.

As a substitute for wheat flour, banana meal is recommended as probably one that will be most generally used, as it is the cheapest to produce. This can be made from any kind of banana or plantain, although it is generally recommended that the "red fig" banana be used, which at present are scarcely used in Trinidad.

Banana bread is best made from a mixture of wheat flour and banana meal, but in what proportion is a question for the consumer to judge for himself. The bread is dark in color, or lighter according to the amount of wheat flour added, this probably being the only reason why some people prefer the addition of wheat flour in larger proportions. The addition of a certain proportion of wheat flour is necessary to give the bread the proper consistency. Occasionally for some reason a little difficulty is found in getting the banana meal to rise, when the dough is made with yeast, and it has been recommended to set the doughs separately and combine them when kneading. A similar process is to make the bread with baking powder, when it never fails to rise, but to take care in mixing, however, not to make the flours too wet, as the banana meal is not capable of taking up so much moisture as the wheat flour. It is said that banana meal cooked and eaten as oatmeal porridge is an excellent food and should entirely replace oatmeal on the breakfast table at the present time. In cake making the same proportions of banana meal can be used as in the making of bread. Used in the form of a milk pudding made in the same way as a rice pudding it is also very palatable. Banana biscuits can also be made from the meal; in fact, they have been known in Europe as a fancy biscuit for a long time.

Sweet Potato Flour as Wheat Substitute.

Large quantities of sweet potatoes are planted in Trinidad. Peeled, sliced, dried, and milled in the same way as dasheen they can be made into good bread used with wheat flour in the proportion of half and half. Of all the breads made from flour substitutes this is perhaps the best, the bread being light brown in color, of a pleasant slightly sweet flavor, and very light. The percentage of flour produced as compared with dasheen is low, it being only 22.72, or roughly 4 pounds of potatoes make 1 pound of meal.

The report of the department also contains recipes for making bread with flour substitutes, and also a report from the Flour Substitutes Committee, of British Guiana.

[The printed report can be examined at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce by referring to file No. 93188.]

State-Owned Sawmills of New South Wales.

Consul General J. I. Brittain, of Sydney, Australia, reports under date of August 29 that the sawmills which are operated and owned by the State of New South Wales were run during the three previous months at a profit of 15.72 per cent. It is stated that the sawmills have been able to take contracts at a profit and operate in competition with private companies.

Manufacturers of rubber shoes in Sweden have notified their customers that no more of these goods can be delivered for this winter's trade.

Buy a United States Government Bond of the Second Liberty Loan.

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the Bureau and its district and cooperative offices. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and state opportunity number. The Bureau does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases. Symbols: * Reported by American consular officers; † Reported by commercial attaches and commercial agents; ‡ Direct inquiries received by the Bureau.

In considering the following "opportunities" special regard should be had to the laws and regulations governing export licenses and trading with the enemy.

Barley sugar.....	25556	Leather goods.....	25555
Beltings.....	25555	Loose-leaf book metal parts.....	25559
Brass and copper sheets.....	25555	Lumber and timber.....	25555
Chemicals.....	25552, 25555, 25557	Machinery.....	25553, 25555
Colors.....	25555	Metals.....	25555
Confectionery.....	25556	Piece goods and textiles.....	25555, 25557
Crockery.....	25555	Polishes.....	25554
Cutlery.....	25555	Ropes.....	25555
Dyes and dyers' equipment.....	25551, 25557	Sizing.....	25555
Explosives.....	25557	Steel plates and baling hoops.....	25555
Hardware.....	25555, 25558	Sulphur and sulphate of copper.....	25552
Hosiery.....	25555	Tanners' supplies and machinery.....	25557
Ivory blocks and wares.....	25555	Yarns.....	25555

25551.*—A man in Canada desires to purchase dyes and dyers' equipment suitable for dyeing woolen goods. Cash will be paid.

25552.*—A company in Portugal wishes to secure an agency for the sale of sulphate of copper, pure 99 per cent, sulphur in bags or bulk, and rough chemicals in general. Quotations should be made f. o. b. New York. Confirmed credit will be opened by cablegram. Correspondence should be in French. Reference.

25553.*—An agency is desired by a firm in Switzerland for the sale of general machinery for metal working, woodworking, paper making, laundry, construction, household, tool working, watchmaking, etc. Quotations may be made f. o. b. New York. Payment will be made against confirmed credit with New York bank. Correspondence may be in English. If catalogues are submitted, some of them, if possible, would be preferred in French. References. Goods will be imported under official control of the Swiss Trust.

25554.*—A company in Denmark desires to buy wholesale quantities of boot and shoes polishes in tins and glasses. Quotations should be made f. o. b. nearest American port. Payment will be made by cash against documents. Correspondence may be in English. References.

25555.‡—A firm in India desires to be placed in communication with American manufacturers and exporters of chemicals, leather goods, sizing, beltings, cotton ropes, sizing flannel, rolled and clearing cloth, colors, steel plates, steel baling hoops, hardware sundries, all kinds of piece goods, yarns, all kinds of hosiery, machinery in general, spinning and weaving machinery and accessories, lumber and timber, cutlery, crockery, ivory blocks and wares, brass sheets, copper sheets, and metals. Catalogues, samples, and prices, wherever possible, should be submitted. References.

25556.*—A company in England is in the market for confectionery, chocolate, pandrops, barley sugar, bottled sweets, etc., packed in cases containing 4-pound boxes or sixteen 7-pound tins per case. Quotations should be made f. o. b. New York. Payment will be made by cash against shipping documents in New York. Reference.

25557.†—An agency is desired by a man in Peru for the sale of textiles, chemicals, explosives, dyes, and tanners' supplies and machinery. Payment will be made by draft against documents, sight or 90 days. Correspondence should be in Spanish. References.

25558.‡—A firm in England wishes to secure agencies for the sale of general hardware.

25559.*—A firm in Tasmania desires to purchase or secure an agency for the sale of metal parts for expanding loose-leaf books, etc. Quotations should be made f. o. b. New York. Payment will be made within 30 days in London. A sample of these parts should be submitted. References.

COMMERCE REPORTS



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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE



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ADMISSION OF BULK LEATHER INTO UNITED KINGDOM.

[Cablegram from American consul general, London, Oct. 9.]

All bulk leather ordered previous to February 23, 1917, may now be imported into United Kingdom. Statutory declaration as to each specific order required by Department Import Restrictions.

IMPORTATION OF AUTOMOBILES INTO AUSTRALIA.

[Cablegram from American consul general, Sydney, Oct. 10.]

Importation motor cars ordered prior August 10 permitted providing cars shipped by December 31, 1917. In case of importation of cars not ordered prior August 10, each car must be accompanied by two chassis before it will be admitted into Australia.

[The complete list of Australian import prohibitions was published in COMMERCE REPORTS for Oct. 6. For the admission of Automobile bodies, see the issues of Oct. 3 and 5.]

BRITISH LICENSES FOR EXPORTS TO NEUTRAL COUNTRIES.

[Cablegram from American consul general, London, Oct. 6.]

War Trade Department announces that prohibition export all articles Scandinavia and Netherlands will not result immediately in refusal of licenses for goods which have not hitherto been prohibited from export to Sweden, Denmark, Norway, and Holland, but continuance of this arrangement must not be counted upon. Earlier special arrangements respecting Sweden withdrawn as from October 8, Sweden being placed on same footing as other Scandinavian countries and Holland. Licenses already issued for export of goods to these countries must be regarded as provisionally suspended, except for coal.

TOBACCO PUBLIC SALE IN AMSTERDAM.

[Consul Frank W. Mahin, Amsterdam, Netherlands, Sept. 18.]

A public sale of 9,362 packages (one package equals 179 pounds) of Java and 3,066 of Brazilian tobacco was held here on the 14th instant. The result was higher prices than had been expected where competition existed, but in some other cases buyers had agreed upon a certain maximum which they would offer, and this reduced prices in those instances below previous estimates.

The highest prices for Java, those above the estimates, where competition was active, were from 115 to 200 Dutch cents (46 to 80, American) per half kilo (1.1 pounds). The previous estimate in these two cases was 110 and 135½ Dutch cents, respectively.

The lots affected by the agreement among buyers to make maximum offers were sold as low as 95 Dutch cents (38 American) per half kilo, while some of these lots were withheld from sale altogether.

The Brazilian tobacco brought 136 Dutch cents (57 American) per half kilo; previous estimate, 118 Dutch cents.

The quality of the tobacco was very good. There were no foreign buyers.

INDIA'S FOREIGN TRADE FOR ONE MONTH.

[Consul General James A. Smith, Calcutta.]

The trade returns for June, 1917, when compared with the same month in 1916, show a decrease in the value of imports, but increases in the values of exports and reexports of private merchandise.

The value of imports in June, 1917, was \$32,443,333, a decrease of \$4,079,749 as compared with June, 1916. The total exports, including reexports and the value of wheat and tanned cow hides exported on Government account, amounted to \$64,886,670, but excluding reexports to \$62,453,416, an increase of \$6,813,100. Reexports amounted to \$2,433,254, an increase of \$97,330 as compared with June, 1916.

Imports of treasure (private) rose by over \$7,883,730 to \$9,003,025, but exports fell by \$308,211 to over \$454,206.

BRITISH GOVERNMENT REQUISITIONS RUM STOCKS.

[Cablegram from American consul general, London, dated Oct. 10.]

Admiralty gives notice of intention to take possession of stocks of rum in bonded warehouses in United Kingdom from October 6. All persons owning or controlling more than 10 puncheons of such rum are required to furnish full particulars to the Director Contracts Admiralty.

BRAZILIAN CONCESSION FOR PACKING-HOUSE MACHINERY.

[Cablegram received Oct. 9 from American consul general, Rio de Janeiro.]

Decree published to-day exempts from all customs duties for five years from June 30, last, packing-house machinery, accessories, and tools destined to construct and operate packing houses already built or to be built in the future.

RADIO STATION FOR HONGKONG OBSERVATORY.

[Vice Consul A. E. Carleton, Hongkong, British China, Aug. 22.]

A receiving installation for the radio station, Royal Observatory, Hongkong, is now being constructed. The station is located at the observatory, in latitude $22^{\circ} 18' 13''$ N., longitude $114^{\circ} 10' 15''$ E., of Greenwich. The installation consists of a single triangular steel-lattice mast 150 feet high. The aerial (which is on order in America) will spread from the mast to six chimney stacks of a terrace of houses 150 yards to the south of the mast. The receiving apparatus consists of a receiving set by the British Telegraph Instrument Co., to be used in conjunction with a Brown relay and high-resistance telephone.

At present the installation is to be used only for receiving time signals from Shanghai, Manila, and Hanoi, and possibly from Tsingtau and one or more Japanese stations by night. After the war it is proposed to install apparatus for distributing time signals by relay via the Cape d'Aguiar radio station. The Government hopes that arrangements may then be made for receiving meteorological observations from ships at stated times.

SWEDISH GOVERNMENT REQUISITIONS PIT PROPS, WOOL, ETC.

[American Minister Ira N. Norris, Stockholm.]

The Swedish Government has requisitioned all supplies of pit props and directed that they be sold to the Royal Swedish Fuel Commission. Another decree requisitions all supplies of denatured spirits, another all supplies of sheep's wool, while a further decree has been issued giving the Government authority to take over all gas and electric plants not already owned by the Government.

A Royal decree has also been issued prohibiting the purchasing of scrap copper, tin, antimony, aluminum, or tin-plated sheet-iron by anyone except the Industrial Commission or persons authorized by said commission to purchase these materials.

NEW TAIWAN TEA COMPANY.

[Consul M. D. Kirjassoff, Tathoku, Sept. 3.]

It is reported that Messrs. M. Abe, T. Yoshimura, J. Watanabe, and S. Wakao have organized the Taiwan Takushoku Sei-Cha Kaisha (the Taiwan Colonization Tea Manufacturing Co.), with a capital of 3,000,000 yen (\$1,494,000). The new company has purchased the Nippon Taiwan Sei-Cha Kaisha (the Japan-Taiwan Tea Manufacturing Co.), at An Pin Chin, Taiwan, for 150,000 yen (\$74,700), with a view to extending the manufacture of black tea, in the making of which that company has hitherto been engaged, and in the manufacture of Oolong and Pouchong tea as well.

ENGLAND TAKES POSSESSION OF COTTON GOODS REMNANTS.

Consul General Skinner cables from London, under date of October 10, that the Army Council announces its intention to take possession of cuttings, clipping, and remnants from cotton materials issued or to be issued by War Department for making up of such materials into garments.

INCREASED UTILIZATION OF STRAW IN SCOTLAND.

[Consul H. Abert Johnson, Dundee, Sept. 15.]

The Dundee Advertiser of September 14 contained the following article by Dr. Tocher, of the Highland and Agricultural Society in Edinburgh, upon the increased utilization of straw in Scottish agriculture and industry:

In considering the problem of the better utilization of straw, it would be well in the first place to make a rough estimate of the amount of straw produced annually from oats, barley, and wheat throughout Scotland. The total area under oats in 1915 was 982,000 acres; under barley, 149,000 acres; and under wheat, 77,000 acres. We should thus expect on an average at least about 1,200,000 tons of straw annually. It appears that the board of agriculture for Scotland desires that about 350,000 additional acres should be brought into cultivation during 1918. If this area were entirely grain-producing it would mean that 420,000 additional tons of straw would be available at the fall of 1918, and have to be utilized in some way or other.

It has been suggested that if straw were rendered more digestible, a greater quantity of it would be used for feeding purposes. In this connection it would be well to state that a process for rendering straw more digestible was patented some years ago, but it does not seem to have been taken much advantage of. Under this patent straw was treated with a weak solution of caustic soda and heated under pressure for about 60 hours. The effect of the soda under these conditions was to dissolve the encrusting material of the straw, and a great deal of the soda was itself used up by the acid formed during steam pressure. The organic matter of oat straw treated in this way showed a digestibility coefficient of 60 per cent, as against 40 per cent for the original straw. Digestion of straw by soda in large boilers under pressure could be undertaken by farmers themselves, or as a side line, either by manufacturers of feeding stuffs or by others who would be willing to use the capital necessary for such a purpose.

Paper-Making Purposes—Scottish Experiments.

It is well known that straw can be quite readily utilized for paper-making purposes, along with rags, wood pulp, and esparto grass, and has been so utilized on the Continent for many years. Its use in this country, however, has been largely curtailed owing to the irregularities of the supply and to the fluctuations in price. Prior to the outbreak of war the supply of esparto was quite regular and ample, and the grass was obtainable at more or less regular and moderate prices. Esparto and wood pulp have been the raw materials most largely used hitherto in the manufacture of cheap writing papers and of the better class of printing papers. Paper manufacturers see no reason why straw should not be much more largely used in the manufacture of various grades of paper, provided constant supplies can be obtained, and provided also that farmers would take the trouble to keep straw reasonably free from the stalks of docks, thistles, and similar plants. These weeds are the cause of great trouble in preparing straw pulp, and their presence in straw raises the cost of production. While paper generally is made from any two or from a mixture of all three of these constituents, namely, rags, wood pulp, and esparto, still the finest qualities are made entirely from rags. Straw pulp may be looked upon as a substitute for esparto, although it does not seem probable that straw can ever entirely supersede esparto, the ideal fiber in paper making. The best quality of straw pulp could be freely used in the hardening of ordinary writing paper, which is largely composed of wood and esparto pulps, but which could be made entirely from wood and straw pulps.

It may be of interest to state that experiments were recently carried out in two Scottish mills for the purpose of determining the yield and of testing the utility of pulp obtained from straw. Both wheat straw and oat straw were tested, and fairly satisfactory results were obtained. In one of the tests docks and thistles gave trouble. In the other test the strainings after bleaching were found to consist of binder twine, which is waste material not usable by paper manufacturers, but which could be utilized in making straw boards or for other purposes. A yield of pulp was obtained from oat straw equal to 35 per cent of the weight of bone-dry straw. Oat straw is not quite so knotty as wheat straw, and therefore is less difficult to handle from the point of view of the paper manufacturer. The adoption of straw instead of esparto as a

source of pulp in paper making would materially aid in the utilization of straw, but it is unlikely that the whole surplus of a season could be used up by paper makers.

The regulations of the army council, which came into force on February 15, 1916, have been modified in order to permit the utilization of straw for other purposes than as fodder for cattle and horses. There should now, therefore, be no difficulty in using all the straw produced in Scotland.

Strawboard Manufacture—A Nitrogen Gatherer.

Among the possible consumers of straw we must include not only paper manufacturers but also strawboard manufacturers. Up to the present time this country has taken its supplies of strawboard entirely from abroad, mainly from Holland and Belgium, the cost prior to 1914 being about £7 [nearly \$35] per ton. If any can be got at the present time, the price would run about £11 [roughly, \$55] per ton. The utilization of straw for strawboard could be effected by paper manufacturers if they cared to augment their present machinery. The cheapest strawboards are made from straw and waste material, and it seems manufacturers in this country have been unable to compete with continental manufacturers. Boards for more expensive books are of British manufacture. It should be possible for manufacturers in this country to adapt themselves to the new circumstances, and to turn out suitable strawboards such as are found on the covers of all ordinary books. The proportion of straw used in the manufacture of strawboard would be very much greater than that used in the manufacture of paper on account of the variety of uses of strawboard. While therefore a certain amount of straw for paper making would be utilized, strawboard manufacture is the practical outlet for the expected surplus.

It seems desirable to mention in connection with the utilization of straw its possible value as an agent in increasing a growth of azotobacter and other nitrogen-fixing organisms naturally present in the soil. The mineral and vegetable constituents of straw have been found to promote a rapid growth of azotobacter. Experiments with straw alone and with straw containing about one part of arsenic in 100,000 parts have been found to give interesting and valuable results, and in particular confirm previous results as to the value of arsenic as a stimulant. There was a distinct increase in the amount of nitrogen due to the rapid multiplication of these organisms. The further suggestion is therefore made that straw which can not be used for ordinary feeding purposes, and any surplus straw left over after the wants of agriculturists, paper makers, and strawboard makers have been fully supplied, should be used (1) in the making of a more digestible straw by means of soda solution, and (2) in the treatment of straw as an agent to promote the growth of nitrogen-fixing organisms for the purpose of transferring from the atmosphere to the soil an appreciable proportion of the valuable fertilizer constituent, nitrogen, in a form available for plant growth. If straw proved a suitable agent for accumulating nitrogen economically, then, if properly treated and properly stored, its value would increase and not decrease in keeping.

VALUE OF THE WHITING AS A FOOD FISH.

Economic Circular No. 32 of the United States Bureau of Fisheries, issued October 10, 1917, presents the value as food of "the whiting—a good fish not adequately utilized." The bureau points out that "the quantity consumed is insignificant in comparison with the abundance of the fish," and that "it is little short of disgraceful to permit this waste of large quantities of an excellent foodstuff." As dealers usually will not carry a commodity for which there is no inquiry, housekeepers are urged in the circular to "do their bit" in preventing the waste of this good fish by asking for it fresh, frozen, canned, salted, and smoked. Numerous recipes for whiting are given in the circular.

Buy a United States Government Bond of the Second Liberty Loan.

THE NORTH GERMAN LLOYD DURING THE WAR.

[Translation of portion of article from commercial supplement of *Berliner Tageblatt*, forwarded by Consul General Soren Listoe, Rotterdam, Netherlands, Aug. 4.]

Since the outbreak of the war the shareholders of the North German Lloyd have received no report from their directors; hence the yearbook 1916-17, "The War and Shipping," with special reference to the North German Lloyd (Vol. III), which has just been published by the Welt Reise Verlag, G. m. b. H., of Berlin, is of so much the greater interest to them, as well as to the general public. In this book appears an article by Mr. Heineken, the general manager of the North German Lloyd, in which he gives an insight into the activities of the company during the present war. As is known, some of its steamers have been placed at the service of the country as auxiliary cruisers. Mr. Heineken writes:

Our ships have been used in the service of the Empire not only as ships of war but also as a means of transport for raw materials, and in that service they have rendered great assistance. During 1915 and 1916 two of our freight boats, the *Norderney* and the *Schwabe*, were engaged in carrying ore from Sweden. Unfortunately one of these, the *Norderney*, met with an accident. It ran upon an enemy mine and foundered, the captain and three of the crew meeting a heroic death. Great difficulties arose with regard to insurance. The premium paid for such a dangerous voyage by a vessel has been extraordinarily high, and when such a vessel is lost the insurance money, however high this may be, is no longer a sufficient compensation for the tonnage lost, which can not now be replaced and which could well be used after the war. The North German Lloyd also had to pay equally high premiums in two other cases, where two of its vessels in neutral ports had been ordered to sail for home. When for a ship of the value of 10,000,000 marks, for instance, an insurance premium of 6 per cent must be paid, this is no small matter, even when a return of 2 per cent is made on the ship's safe arrival. Under these conditions it may readily be understood that no great profits can be obtained.

Insurance Before and During War.

Before the war the German mercantile marine for various reasons was partly insured by English companies, and the North German Lloyd did not make any exception to this general rule. The insurance system is briefly as follows: With regard to the perils of the seas, we insured our ships ourselves up to a certain amount (viz, 4,000,000 marks). The amount exceeding this was in peace times covered partly with German and partly with English companies. In addition to this our ships were insured against fire during the time they were lying in port. At the outbreak of the war circumstances changed in so far that, in the first place, especially for the ships requisitioned by the Government, no further insurance was necessary, as in case of loss or damage arrangements had been made with the Government for a suitable compensation.

As to our remaining fleet, an insurance against the perils of the sea no longer being necessary from the moment of arrival in port, they were still to be kept insured against fire. For so far as the insurance had been effected with English companies, the arrangements in regard thereto lapsed for only a part in June, 1915; it was thus only then possible to transfer the insurance of our ships wholly to German concerns. Since that time, in any case, we have not allowed the English to make money out of us. The endeavor to make the German mercantile marine, after the war, as far as possible, free of the London insurance market brought with it the need of obtaining greater cover for the perils of the sea in Germany itself. Hence, it is the intention to establish in Bremen the marine-insurance business also. A favorable opportunity to this end presented itself when the Securitas Insurance Co., of Berlin, which up till now transacted only accident and employers' liability business, decided to apply itself to the marine-insurance and fire-reinsurance business. We succeeded in getting this company to come to Bremen. Under the management of a Bremen syndicate, at the head of which was the Bremen National Bank, and the bankers E. C. Weyhausen, of the same place, a capital of 4,000,000 marks was raised, making the total capital of the Securitas 8,000,000 marks.

Catering for Prisoners' Camps.

We decided more than 20 months ago to make the experience of our catering officials useful in the sphere of feeding great numbers, by taking over the catering for camps for prisoners of war. The arrangement and supply of about 20 such camps for war prisoners, of about 20,000 men in the district of the Tenth Army Corps, has in this way gradually been transferred to the North German Lloyd. Our workshops in Bremen harbor have rendered similar practical service to the country, having recently taken over in increasing measure the manufacture of war material.

During the long time of involuntary idleness, we have naturally had in view the replacing of our loss in ships and the possible increase of our shipyards in general. We have ordered a large series of new vessels to be built simultaneously in various German shipyards. Several of these vessels were ordered before the war, and the prices for building them were considerably below the present prices. Besides our two large passenger boats, *Columbus* and *Hindenburg*, of about 35,000 gross registered tons, and our two passenger and freight boats, *Munchen* and *Zeppelin*, between 17,000 and 18,000 tons, we have given orders for a large number of larger freight steamers. On these orders not only all the installments were paid as they fell due, but considerable advances have been made also to shipyards.

German Share in Future Shipping.

Mr. Heineken asserts that the statement that after the war all the needs of German companies will have been met and that they will all have very rich returns is not justified. He is, however, far from holding a pessimistic view with regard to the future of German shipping. "The considerable diminution of the world's tonnage during the war," he states, "which is in the first place to be attributed to the activity of our submarines, will after the conclusion of peace have as a consequence a rise in the rates of freight, from which the mercantile fleet will profit. The question is, how long this bull on the freight market will last. A further question is whether German shipping will really be destined to make unlimited use of these circumstances. A temporary reduction of certain imports after the conclusion of peace can not be avoided."

He believes that a doubly difficult task awaits German shipping after the war. First, he says, it must compare and make up the great loss and damage of the years of war, and, secondly, "make up the gigantic advantage which, through the circumstances of the war, has so extraordinarily strengthened enemy and neutral shipowners in advance of us. This much, however, is certain—that the German companies, if they are helped over the first difficult times, when they will have to meet the most severe competition from their foreign competitors, will be able to withstand this severe trial and win back the lost ground."

New Gas Well Near Moncton.

Consul Richardson reports from Moncton, New Brunswick, that a new gas well has been discovered on the property of the New Brunswick Gas & Oilfields (Ltd.), thus relieving any anxiety as to a shortage.

[A report on Moncton's gas supply was published in COMMERCE REPORTS for Sept. 17.]

According to an official report there are in New Zealand 164 butter and 392 cheese factories and 19 private dairies making butter and 22 making cheese, as compared with 702 all told for 1916.

CURLING SHARK MEAT.

Although the meat of some sharks, prepared in various ways, has been eaten, a particular prejudice has been held against certain kinds of sharks, especially the sand shark, which has been claimed to be absolutely unfit to eat. During the past summer the director of the Woods Hole Laboratory of the United States Bureau of Fisheries tested six species of sharks, including the sand shark, by supplying the meats as food to about 50 persons. Served in different ways, they were pronounced not only good, but especially pleasing in flavor and texture. Several persons said they were equal to swordfish.

While it seems probable that shark meat, when once thoroughly introduced to the market, will, like swordfish, be so quickly sold that there may be little or no necessity for the application of curing or other preserving methods, nevertheless attention has been given to the proper means of smoking and salting. It is found that shark meat is best salted dry, by the kench method, since in any wet process it has a tendency to develop a disagreeable ammonia smell. The fish is split and the backbone removed in such a way as to leave no parts over 2 inches in thickness, in order that the salt may strike through quickly.

Shark meat, not having a great amount of oil, is not an ideal meat for smoking. Yet a light smoke, applied gradually for about three days, makes an agreeable product which so far has kept well. It is no less true of smoked shark than of salted shark that it must be kept in a dry condition.

The texture of shark meat, either salted or smoked, lends itself particularly well to the preparation of shredded meat.

AUSTRALASIAN OIL NOTES.

[Consul General J. I. Brittain, Sydney, Australia, Aug. 20.]

The local press has recently been devoting considerable space to inform the public of Australia's absolute dependence on foreign fields for its oil supply. Partly on account of the high prices necessarily paid for the imported article, also with a view to establishing a domestic industry, a determined effort is to be made to ascertain where oil can be found on this continent. Numerous attempts have been made to discover oil here, but thus far they have met with little success. The impression prevails, however, that the territory must be finally tested.

American Geologist Engaged by Vacuum Oil Co.

The Vacuum Oil Co. Proprietary has engaged a geologist who has had considerable experience in discovering oil in American fields to examine certain tracts in Australia. In speaking of the possibility of oil being discovered here, the Sydney Morning Herald says that the Vacuum Oil Co. has agreed with landowners to spend an amount up to \$186,650 in boring and prospecting, and that the company has not asked the Australian Government for money for bonuses or for development work. If oil is found, refineries will be erected at the nearest port, which will mean employment for a large

number of people, building of refineries, tanks, and pipe lines, and the purchase of various kinds of machinery.

Petroleum From Shale.

Arrangements are being made, under a three-year contract, for working the oil-shale deposits in the Blue Mountain region of New South Wales. It is said that these deposits radiate from the Walgan Valley, 200 miles north and 100 miles south, being one of the largest shale deposits in the world. When fully working the contemplated plant and refineries will be capable of producing 30,000 gallons of oil daily.

[Consul General Alfred A. Winslow, Auckland, New Zealand, Sept. 10.]

First Crude Oil Discharged from Tank Ship.

The first 10,000 gallons of crude oil ever discharged in New Zealand direct from a tank ship were lately discharged at Dunedin. A pipe was laid under the wharf and the street from the ship to the tanks in the yard and the oil pumped through the pipe. This seems to mean that from now more or less crude oil may be expected to be used in this country as fuel. This question has been under consideration for some time, and it might be well for American producers to make an effort to secure this trade.

REVISED TIMBER REGULATIONS IN NEW BRUNSWICK.

[Consul E. Verne Richardson, Moncton, New Brunswick, Canada, Sept. 27.]

The order in council of the government of New Brunswick regulating the amounts chargeable against timber cutters operating on Crown lands, to which reference was made in **COMMERCE REPORTS** for August 1, 1917, has been amended, the new rates to be effective from August 1, 1917. The new schedule of charges—"stumpage" this tax is locally styled—is as follows:

For spruce, pine, and hackmatack saw logs, per 1,000 superficial feet, \$2.50; hardwood timber up to an average of 14 inches, per ton, \$1.10; hardwood timber above 14 inches, additional per inch, per ton, \$0.10; hardwood logs, per 1,000 superficial feet, \$1.25; pine timber up to 14 inches square, per ton, \$2; pine timber above 14 inches, additional per inch, per ton, \$0.50; hackmatack timber, per ton, \$1; spruce timber, per ton, \$1.50; cedar logs, per 1,000 superficial feet, \$2.50; railway ties, 8 feet length, each, \$0.12; hemlock logs, per 1,000 superficial feet, including bark, \$2; white birch for spool wood, per cord, \$0.65; white birch logs for spool wood, per 1,000 superficial feet, \$1.25; fir logs, per 1,000 superficial feet, \$2; poplar logs, per 1,000 superficial feet, \$2; and for all other descriptions of lumber not specified above, 15 per cent of the market value thereof at the mill, place of shipment, or place of consumption in the Province. Permits issued by the authority of the Minister of Lands and Mines to enable licensees to cut undersized lumber on barren lands or thickets will pay the same rate of stumpage as stated above, with the addition of \$0.25 per 1,000, being the cost of supervision.

Sheep shearers in New Zealand are to receive from \$6.70 to \$7.30 and board, per 100 sheep, this year, as compared with \$5.45 for 1916.

BOOM IN BRITISH COLUMBIA MINING.

[Consul B. M. Rasmusen, Fernie, British Columbia, Canada, Sept. 28.]

The steady advance in the price of silver and ores has started a mining boom in the Kootenai district in eastern British Columbia. Zinc ore is yielding \$25 to the ton after deducting freight and treatment charges, and the lead \$110 to \$125 to the ton.

Mines near Sandon shipped recently 775 tons of zinc-bearing ore and 185 tons of lead concentrates and still have 200 tons of zinc ore and 40 tons of lead in the bins ready for shipment as a result of three months' operation. The value of the concentrates in storage and those shipped is \$49,725. The zinc, valued at \$24,375, more than paid for the cost of operation, while the lead, valued at \$25,725, was net profit. With present facilities for operating the mines, it is expected that the output can be considerably increased, with no increase in the cost of production unless in reference to supplies, as the recent increase in wages of employees is included in the foregoing statement.

Lead concentrates produced by the mill at Sandon contain 70 ounces of silver to the ton, and the average price obtained for the shipments referred to was 78½ cents an ounce. At the current quotations on silver the output would be worth considerably more.

COAL GAS APPROVED AS GASOLINE SUBSTITUTE.

[Consul E. Haldeman Dennison, Birmingham, England, Sept. 13.]

The question of driving motor vehicles with coal gas as a substitute for gasoline continues to attract attention throughout the United Kingdom. The press is devoting much space to the discussion of its advantages and disadvantages. The consensus of opinion appears to be that it is a practical proposition and should be adopted as widely as possible, at least for the present, in order to conserve the gasoline supply. The British Commercial Gas Association has been carefully investigating the subject, and in its report declares that coal gas in the present emergency may be advantageously used as a gasoline substitute by providing a large flexible holder in which the gas is stored approximately under atmospheric pressure.

No Structural Alterations Required.

There are no difficulties in adapting the ordinary engine to run with this fuel, as it may be employed without any structural alterations. Another important point is that no alteration in the carbureter is required. The gas bag is merely placed on the top of the car or van, and has one outlet and one inlet. The gas is carried to the carbureter and thence to the engine. The latter may be switched immediately from gasoline to gas or vice versa.

The experiments of the British Commercial Gas Association led to the conclusion that the equivalent of 1 gallon of gasoline is about 300 cubic feet of gas, but other experiments have given only 250 cubic feet or less, depending on the quality of the gas, which varies from one town to another. In practice it seems that coal gas will show appreciable economy compared with gasoline, as at normal prices gas worth 16 cents would do the work of a gallon of gasoline.

The one complaint that has been heard with reference to this new fuel is that it is inconvenient because of the large amount of space required for the bulky containers, which are now manufactured in this country in various sizes with capacities from 150 to 500 cubic feet.

Gas Works Provide Facilities.

Birmingham has a number of vehicles running successfully on coal gas, and the local gas company has made arrangements to encourage the gasoline-saving movement by the establishment of a filling station at one of its works. Other gas works throughout the Midlands and elsewhere are also doing what they can to assist motorists with such depots. In normal times this country imports 120,000,000 gallons of gasoline per annum, and it has been estimated that up to the present moment a quantity of gasoline at the rate of about 500,000 gallons per annum has been replaced by gas, and this figure will increase with the growing use of the new fuel.

[Articles on the use of gas as motor fuel in Great Britain were published in **COMMERCE REPORTS** for Aug. 21 and Oct. 2, 1917.]

VANCOUVER'S INCREASED PRODUCTION OF LOGS.

[Consul General George N. West, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, Sept. 25.]

Production of logs in the Vancouver district of British Columbia during August, 1917, was 12,000,000 feet greater than in the corresponding month of 1916. There have been marked increases throughout 1917, and the first eight months show an increase of 88,815,809 feet.

The secretary of the British Columbia Loggers' Association states that there is no likelihood of a shortage of lumber, although the demand has greatly increased. There is no surplus, however, in his opinion.

The Vancouver district comprises the territory between the international boundary and the Queen Charlotte Islands, extending as far inland as the Coast Range. In this territory 84,433,383 feet of logs were scaled during August, 1917, compared with 71,897,000 in the corresponding month of 1916. The increase is the result of the greater demand for shipbuilding purposes on the coast, and general construction all over Canada, particularly on the prairies and in the east.

Douglas Fir, Cedar, and Hemlock.

Figures supplied by the district forester show that there was an increase of 2,000,000 feet in the production of Douglas fir in August, compared with the corresponding month of last year. The production was 38,000,000 and 36,000,000 feet, respectively. Cedar shows a similar increase from 26,000,000 to 28,000,000. Hemlock rose from 6,000,000 to 9,000,000.

If the rate of production of logs is maintained, the year's output will be more than 785,000,000, or an increase for the year of 52,000,000 feet. There is little doubt, however, that increase in log production much greater than this figure may be looked for. The output is always lowest in the early months of the year, and the heaviest production comes from May to the end of the year.

FOREIGN TARIFFS.

AUSTRALIA.

[Order No. A. 231, July 27.]

Use of Tin in Foodstuffs.

An order issued under the authority of the Commerce (Trade Descriptions) Act holds that in the case of canned foodstuffs, such as sardines, fruits, etc., tin or any of its compounds, when in excess of 2 grains per pound, will be regarded as a "deleterious substance," and its presence must be indicated in the trade description appearing upon the principal label.

NIGERIA.

[Consul W. J. Yerby, Dakar, Senegal, July 27.]

Marking of Folded Woven Goods.

An ordinance of June 18, 1917, prescribes the conditions under which folded woven goods may be imported into Nigeria and prohibits the sale or importation, except for transshipment or in transit, of goods not complying with the regulations. Fabrics must be arranged in folds of not less than 36 inches in length, and no piece shall be made up so as to show more folds than the full number of yards it contains. Each piece must have the number of yards and inches marked upon the fabric itself, but an allowance is made for shrinkage, etc., ranging from 4 inches in a piece marked 10 yards or less up to 18 inches for a piece marked above 47 yards. The following classes of fabrics are exempted from the requirements of this ordinance: Indian bafts, cashmeres, serges, alpaca, silicia, linen drills, khaki drills, tabourettes, gold and silver cloths, tinsel woven cloths, damasks, flannels, silks, silk velvets, tweeds, broadcloth, worsted cloth, and handkerchief cloth, provided there is a dividing mark between every two handkerchiefs and a label is attached showing the size of each handkerchief and the number of handkerchiefs in each piece.

PANAMA.

[Gaceta Oficial, June 2.]

Restriction on Firearms and Ammunition.

As a special war measure, the Government of Panama has prohibited the importation, sale, and use of firearms and ammunition of all kinds except under written licenses issued by designated authorities. For the importation of such articles permission must be secured from the Department of Government and Justice, while the acquisition and use of firearms by private individuals are subject to license from the police authorities. Violations of these regulations may be punished by fine and confiscation of the articles improperly acquired.

PORTUGAL.

[Diário do Governo, Aug. 14.]

Free Admission of Shipbuilding Materials.

In order to facilitate the construction and repair of vessels, the Portuguese Government has granted the privilege of importing materials for shipbuilding free of duty under the same conditions as

goods for reexportation. Application must be made to the Ministry of Finance, specifying the materials to be imported, and in certain cases a bond will be required to cover the internal taxes.

SWITZERLAND.

Hall Marks for Imported Jewelry.

Regulations issued on July 30, 1917, by the Swiss office in charge of the marking of gold and silver articles prescribe the marks to be used on imported jewelry to indicate the standard of fineness. Hall marks are required on all imported articles of gold, silver, or platinum, other than samples not intended for sale, and gold and silver plated articles, but the use of a private trade-mark is not obligatory. The marks may be applied by the manufacturers themselves or they will be affixed in the assay office upon the payment of 5 centimes for each article. The importation of gold articles of fineness of less than 8 karats is prohibited.

[Other regulations regarding the marking of gold and silver articles in Switzerland were summarized in Foreign Tariff Notes No. 23, page 73.]

VENEZUELA.

[La Gaceta, Aug. 2.]

Tariff Modifications.

The duties on a number of articles of doubtful classification are fixed by an order of August 1, 1917, which also provides for new rates of duty in the case of certain articles. Among the more important changes the duty on hydrogen peroxide is reduced from 1.25 bolivars to 0.10 bolivar per kilo, exclusive of surtaxes, and substantial reductions are also made in the duties on gold-plated watches, cork, locks, beads, and on certain textiles, particularly cotton fabrics containing from 16 to 18 threads in half a square of 5 millimeters to the side, and on the heavier artificial silk fabrics. Exemption from duty is granted for flytraps and fly paper, wooden type boxes and composing frames, and strips of paper, 11 centimeters wide, for use with monotype machines. (Bolivar, \$0.193.)

AMENDMENTS TO THE NAVIGATION LAWS.

The changes in the laws relating to navigation and the merchant marine that were made by Congress during the session from December 4, 1916, to March 4, 1917, are presented in a publication which has been issued by the United States Bureau of Navigation under the title "Amendments to the navigation laws of 1915—second supplement." A copy of the act amending the act creating the Bureau of War Risk Insurance, approved June 12, 1917, and one of the joint resolution authorizing the President to take over vessels of nations with which the United States may be at war, approved May 12, 1917, are included in the pamphlet. Copies of the publication may be obtained at 5 cents each from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C.

Buy a United States Government Bond of the Second Liberty Loan.

COMMERCE THROUGH THE SAULT STE. MARIE CANALS.

SEPTEMBER.

Articles.	United States Canal.		Canadian Canal.		Total.	
	1916	1917	1916	1917	1916	1917
EASTBOUND.						
Copper.....short tons.	18,014	11,604	946	379	18,960	11,983
Grain.....bu. hls.	3,802,109	3,496,935	5,122,807	827,150	9,225,916	4,324,085
Flour.....barrels.	1,200,530	520,450	175,791	398,500	1,676,321	918,650
Iron ore.....short tons.	7,765,779	8,010,619	1,755,956	1,288,192	9,531,715	9,298,811
Pig iron.....do.	10,277				10,277	
Lumber.....M feet.	53,054	49,311	2,990	2,882	56,044	52,193
Wheat.....bushels.	7,279,026	5,380,556	7,951,637	3,184,621	15,230,663	8,565,177
General merchandise.....short tons.	53,348	34,673	4,040	10,633	57,388	45,306
Passengers.....number.	1,003	891	2,321	2,414	3,324	3,328
WESTBOUND.						
Coal:						
Hard.....short tons.	291,087	385,174	12,800	17,150	303,887	402,324
Soft.....do.	1,728,213	2,856,620	143,865	204,870	1,872,078	3,061,490
Flour.....barrels.	45				45	
Grain.....bushels.	950	450			960	450
Manufactured iron.....short tons.	14,583	9,649	5,255	2,505	19,788	12,124
Iron ore.....do.		12,096		7,546		19,642
Salt.....barrels.	103,534	75,340	3,500	7,009	107,034	82,340
General merchandise.....short tons.	122,801	103,853	47,996	33,279	170,797	137,132
Passengers.....number.	833	829	2,089	2,211	2,922	3,073
TOTAL.						
Freight:						
Eastbound.....short tons.	8,358,140	8,441,808	2,165,783	1,457,867	10,523,923	9,899,695
Westbound.....do.	2,172,185	3,378,671	210,416	268,350	2,382,601	3,645,021
Total.....	10,530,325	11,820,479	2,376,199	1,724,207	12,906,524	13,544,686
Vessel passages.....number.	2,521	2,572	918	693	3,439	3,265
Registered tonnage.....net.	7,993,765	7,616,659	1,801,952	1,402,058	9,795,717	9,018,717

SIX MONTHS ENDING SEPTEMBER.

EASTBOUND.						
Copper.....short tons.	79,787	79,844	3,882	7,481	83,669	87,325
Grain.....bushels.	29,954,697	35,557,206	31,363,789	13,610,103	61,318,486	49,167,309
Flour.....barrels.	4,308,128	2,909,531	2,225,761	2,161,378	6,533,889	5,070,909
Iron ore.....short tons.	38,018,934	35,759,152	9,351,416	9,016,176	47,370,350	44,775,328
Pig iron.....do.	29,896	5,721			29,896	5,724
Lumber.....M feet.	240,703	260,290	10,696	8,325	251,399	268,615
Wheat.....bushels.	93,285,181	58,182,742	63,450,703	36,604,764	156,735,884	94,767,506
General merchandise.....short tons.	171,565	136,647	50,419	42,299	221,984	178,946
Passengers.....number.	11,995	6,311	15,131	12,083	27,126	18,394
WESTBOUND.						
Coal:						
Hard.....short tons.	1,535,671	1,694,159	73,810	126,450	1,609,481	1,820,609
Soft.....do.	10,277,017	9,921,563	753,161	846,971	11,030,178	10,768,534
Flour.....barrels.	270	80	12,960		13,230	80
Grain.....bushels.	4,710	1,925			4,710	1,925
Manufactured iron.....short tons.	103,626	63,139	12,815	12,683	116,411	75,822
Iron ore.....do.	14,479	44,853	14,448	12,794	28,927	57,647
Salt.....barrels.	530,202	344,893	42,287	75,600	572,489	420,493
General merchandise.....short tons.	701,142	690,711	236,731	199,273	937,873	889,984
Passengers.....number.	11,222	5,639	15,162	13,446	26,384	19,065
TOTAL.						
Freight:						
Eastbound.....short tons.	42,517,627	39,128,966	12,127,997	10,649,050	54,645,624	49,778,016
Westbound.....do.	12,711,571	12,466,199	1,098,302	1,208,971	13,809,873	13,675,170
Total.....	55,229,198	51,595,165	13,226,299	11,858,021	68,455,497	63,453,186
Vessel passages.....number.	13,782	12,386	5,063	4,000	18,845	16,386
Registered tonnage.....net.	41,716,137	37,741,820	9,985,103	9,000,578	51,701,240	46,742,398

PROPOSALS FOR GOVERNMENT SUPPLIES AND CONSTRUCTION.

[Correspondence should be direct with the offices named, and specifications and other information can usually be obtained at the points where the goods are to be delivered or the work is to be performed. In cases where the time limit is too short to permit firms to submit tenders, they should ask to be placed on the mailing lists of such offices to receive notices calling for future supplies or work of a similar nature.]

Heating system, No. 4822.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Bureau of Yards and Docks, Navy Department, Washington, D. C., until November 5, 1917, for furnishing and installing a heating system in the gun shop at the navy yard, Washington, D. C. Refer to specifications No. 2473.

Building construction, No. 4823.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Office of Indian Affairs, Department of the Interior, Washington, D. C., until November 7, 1917, for furnishing material and labor for the construction of one office building, No. 14, at Fort Berthold, Indian Agency, Ellsworths, N. Dak.

Electric cranes, No. 4824.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Bureau of Yards and Docks, Navy Department, Washington, D. C., until November 19, 1917, for three electrically operated fitting-out cranes of 350 gross tons capacity at the navy yards, Norfolk, Va., New York, N. Y., and Philadelphia, Pa. Refer to specifications No. 2587.

Rubber goods, No. 4825.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Medical Supply Depot, United States Army, 21 M Street NE., Washington, D. C., until November 9, 1917, for furnishing and delivering rubber aprons, hot-water bags and syringes, bandages, basins, blankets, bottles, bougies, flexible bougies, flexible catheters, inkwells, pill tile, sheeting, stoppers, rectal, etc., syringes, and tourniquets.

Highway bridge, No. 4826.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Office of Indian Affairs, Department of the Interior, Washington, D. C., until November 6, 1917, for furnishing materials and labor for the construction of one highway bridge, Ute Mountain, Indian Reservation.

Electrical capstans, No. 4827.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Bureau of Yards and Docks, Navy Department, Washington, D. C., until October 29, 1917, for furnishing and installing two electrically driven capstans at the navy yard, Norfolk, Va. Refer to specifications No. 2591.

Cement plant, No. 4828.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the Reclamation Service, Department of the Interior, Denver, Colo., until October 23, 1917, for the sale of cement-plant equipment located at Engle, N. Mex., on the Santa Fe Railroad. This equipment consists of one ball mill, four tube mills, one rotary drier, one weighing machine, conveyors, elevators, hoppers, etc.

Dredging, No. 4829.—Sealed proposals will be received at the United States Engineer Office, 725 Central Building, Los Angeles, Cal., until November 3, 1917, for dredging at San Diego Harbor, Cal.

Excavation, No. 4830.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the Reclamation Service, Department of the Interior, El Paso, Tex., until November 15, 1917, for the construction of canals on the Rio Grande project, involving about 22,000 cubic yards of excavation near Garfield, N. Mex.

OFFICES OF THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE.

DISTRICT OFFICES.

NEW YORK: 734 Customhouse.
BOSTON: 1801 Customhouse.
CHICAGO: 504 Federal Building.
ST. LOUIS: 402 Third National Bank Building.
NEW ORLEANS: 1020 Hibernia Bank Building.
SAN FRANCISCO: 307 Customhouse.
SEATTLE: 848 Henry Building.

COOPERATIVE OFFICES.

CLEVELAND: Chamber of Commerce.
CINCINNATI: Chamber of Commerce.
CINCINNATI: General Freight Agent, Southern Railway, 96 Ingalls Building.
LOS ANGELES: Chamber of Commerce.
PHILADELPHIA: Chamber of Commerce.
CHATTANOOGA: South American Agent, Southern Railway System.
PORTLAND, OREG.: Chamber of Commerce.
DAYTON: Greater Dayton Association.

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the Bureau and its district and cooperative offices. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and state opportunity number. The Bureau does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases. Symbols: * Reported by American consular officers; † Reported by commercial attaches and commercial agents; ‡ Direct inquiries received by the Bureau.

In considering the following "opportunities" special regard should be had to the laws and regulations governing export licenses and trading with the enemy.

Automobiles and accessories...	25564.	25566	Jewelry.....	25560
Belts, leather.....	25582		Knives, pocket.....	25565
Boots and shoes.....	25562		Locks.....	25565
Castings, iron and steel.....	25565		Machine tools.....	25564
Clothing.....	25570		Machinery.....	25567
Confectionery.....	25563		Needles and pins.....	25565
Diamonds.....	25560		Polish, shoe.....	25562
Fly swatters.....	25569		Screws.....	25565
General merchandise.....	25570		Shoe laces.....	25562
Hairpins.....	25565		Slippers.....	25562
Heating apparatus.....	25561		Soap.....	25568
Hinges and brackets.....	25565		Stoves.....	25561

25560.*—A man in Java desires to purchase all kinds of jewelry, especially diamonds. Goods should be sent by parcel post. Payment will be made by cash against documents. Correspondence may be in English.

25561.*—An agency is desired by a man in Belgium for the sale of coal gas and oil stoves, central heating apparatus, etc. Correspondence should be in French.

25562.*—A company in British East Africa is in the market for leather and canvas boots and shoes and slippers for men, women, and children, all kinds of shoe laces, leather belts with two swivels or rings with key hook attached to one swivel, and brown shoe polish packed in individual outfits containing brush, pad, etc., in box. Quotations should be made in English sterling. Payment will be made by sight draft with bill of lading attached, or 60 days sight, if possible. Goods should be packed in extra strong cases with waterproof linings. References.

25563.†—A firm in the Maltese Islands desires to be placed in communication with American manufacturers and exporters of confectionery. Reference.

25564.*—An agency is desired by a man in France for the sale of automobiles, trucks, and accessories; and machine tools. Payment will be made against documents. Correspondence should be in French. Catalogues should be submitted. References.

• 25565.*—A man in England desires to secure an agency on a commission basis for the sale of pocket knives, hinges, brackets, screws, hairpins, needles, pins, safety pins, bag locks, ladies' hand-bag and purse locks, and small iron and steel castings. Reference.

25566.†—A man in Chile, who is acting as agent for a firm in the United States, desires to represent American manufacturers and exporters of automobiles.

25567.*—The manager of a manufacturing firm in Canada would like to be placed in communication with American manufacturers and exporters of laundry and knitting machinery.

25568.*—A company in China desires to purchase or secure an agency for the sale of laundry soap in bars and twin bars; 150 cases of the twin-bar soap and 50 cases of the single-bar soap is required. Samples, prices, etc., should be submitted. Payment will be made by cash against shipping documents. The soap should be packed in wooden boxes with metal binders. Correspondence may be in English.

25569.*—The sanitary and building inspector of a city in Australia desires to be placed in communication with American manufacturers and exporters of fly swatters with a view to placing a sample order for 5,000, after which, if satisfactory, large orders will follow.

25570.†—An agency is desired by a company in Peru for the sale of clothing for men and women, and all other articles that might be of interest to that country. Quotations should be made f. o. b. American port. Correspondence may be in English. Reference.

OCT 15 1917

COMMERCE REPORTS

PRINCETON, N. J.



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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE



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No. 240 Washington, D. C., Saturday, October 13 1917

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EXPORTS FROM PARIS DISTRICT TO UNITED STATES.

According to a cablegram received from the American consul general at Paris, France, the total value of the exports invoiced at the American consulate general at Paris for the United States during the first nine months of 1917 was \$35,335,669, against \$41,990,745 for the corresponding period in 1916. The principal decreases were in precious stones, diamonds, pearls, silk manufactures, clover seed, green calfskins, champagne, feathers, and cotton manufactures. The principal increases were in cigarette paper, gloves, perfumery, and films.

MEXICAN EMBARGO ON SUGAR.

[Telegram from American Vice Consul, Mexico City, Oct. 11.]

Presidential decree effective, October 10, prohibits exportation of all grades sugar until further notice.

[An embargo on the exportation of other food products, viz, corn, rice, beans, wheat, and flour was announced in COMMERCE REPORTS for July 6 and Aug. 28.]

UNITED STATES WEATHER STATION IN DOMINICAN REPUBLIC.

[Consul Arthur McLean, Puerto Plata, Dominican Republic, Sept. 19.]

A weather station was recently established in Puerto Plata by the United States Weather Bureau of Washington, D. C. Mr. N. L. Orme is the local representative. The station is one of a system of 20 maintained by the Weather Bureau in the Caribbean Sea. Of these stations several have been established within the past few months and all have recently been furnished with new and better equipment. The stations were originally installed to report the movement of storms during the hurricane season which extends from July to October, but observations are now made throughout the year.

An important feature of the reorganization this year has been the cabling to Washington two observations a day, one at 8 a. m. and another at 8 p. m., during the hurricane season. During the rest

of the year observations are mailed to the Weather Bureau. The observations recorded consist of the weather condition, temperature, barometer, wind direction, velocity, rainfall, atmospheric pressure, and amount and direction of the clouds.

FORAGE PLANT SEED IMPORTS.

The following table, prepared in the Seed Laboratory of the Bureau of Plant Industry, United States Department of Agriculture, shows the amount of the various kinds of forage plant seeds subject to the Seed Importation Act permitted entry into the United States during the month of September, 1917, as compared with September, 1916, and during the quarter ending September 30, 1917, as compared with the corresponding quarter in 1916.

Kind of seed.	September, 1916.	September, 1917.	Quarter ending Sep- tember 30, 1916.	Quarter ending Sep- tember 30, 1917.
	Pounds.	Pounds.	Pounds.	Pounds.
Alfalfa.....		100	1,394,500	24,506
Awless brome grass.....			1,400	
Blue grass:				
(Canada.....	14,500	47,200	15,200	47,300
Kentucky.....				3,700
Clover:				
Alsike.....	504,900	105,500	703,100	199,900
Crimson.....	1,580,700	182,000	2,837,400	799,986
Red.....	132,000		1,096,800	23,700
White.....			103,300	46,880
Clover mixtures: Alsike and white.....				30,360
Millet:				
Hungarian or German.....	40,300		73,500	9,000
Broom corn.....	29,700	18,000	29,700	218,506
Orchard grass.....	64,900		120,400	57,600
Rape, winter.....	100,200	285,000	211,300	1,098,100
Redtop.....				1,300
Rye grass:				
English.....	56,000	41,600	56,000	296,100
Italian.....	28,200	42,300	26,200	162,900
Timothy.....				100
Vetch:				
Halcy.....	131,200	36,100	131,260	178,300
Spring.....	1,800		1,800	

PUBLICATION OF WEEKLY HEALTH INDEX.

As a health index, the United States Bureau of the Census will publish each week mortality reports from the largest cities in the United States.

There will be given for each city the total number of deaths reported (stillbirths excluded), the death rate, the number of deaths under 1 year of age, and the proportion of infant deaths to total deaths.

Where the data are obtainable for the previous five years, averages for the corresponding weeks will be given for each city.

These totals, rates, and percentages will permit valuable comparisons and will serve as a ready health index for health officers and others. As weekly figures always fluctuate widely, caution must be used in their interpretation. Health experts, however, will immediately appreciate the value of this new compilation.

NEW ITALIAN REGULATIONS FOR WORKING WHEAT.

[Consul General David F. Wilber, Genoa, Sept. 4.]

The *Gazzetta Ufficiale*, published at Rome, August 22, 1917, contained a memorandum of the Commissary General for supply and consumption of food which establishes regulations for the working of wheat for bread and food pastes, to take effect September 6. The Commissariat General for food supplies, the grain associations, and the other bodies are authorized to distribute the wheat to the mills which, for a just compensation, do the milling on the basis of the present regulations. The mills that work for the Commissariat General, for the grain associations, and for the other authorized bodies can not work for account of others, either wheat or other cereals. The mills, during the time they work for account of the commissariat, of the associations, and of the other bodies, can not keep in their storehouses or on their premises any other kinds of wheat except those intrusted to them and the products derived from them.

Must Have Regular Production.

Every mill is directed to grind daily a quantity of wheat not exceeding the maximum allowed by the power of the machinery, and the milling must be carried on regularly on the basis of the hourly production of the mill itself. The rules are applicable to all cylinder mills and also to mills with stones, as far as the construction of the latter plants permits.

The washing and wetting of the wheat for the production of flour for bread is prohibited, and therefore all the machinery and apparatus destined for this purpose must be put out of use and sealed up. The cleaning of the wheat is obligatory, limited, however, to 2 per cent, which represents the loss through milling. For every quintal (100 kilos, or 220.46 pounds) of uncleaned wheat consigned to the mills for flour these must give back 85 kilos of flour and 13 kilos of bran, plus the proceeds of the cleaning to the amount of 1 per cent.

For every quintal of uncleaned wheat consigned to the mills for paste they must give back 75 kilos of product for paste, 3 kilos of wheat meal, 20 kilos of bran, and 2 kilos of refuse for cleaning. The product for food paste must contain about 60 parts of semoule and semolina and 15 parts of flour when it is produced from hard wheat, and about 50 parts of semoule and semolina and the rest of flour when it is produced from soft wheat.

Restricted to Particular Products.

Mills whose plants are for working soft wheat are forbidden to produce materials for food pastes. In mills having plants for both hard and soft wheat the contemporaneous production of flour for bread and products for food pastes is prohibited. Mills that have, and in direct communication, a factory for food paste can not produce flour for bread.

The mill is obliged to take samples, in the presence of those persons whose duty it is to superintend this, of the wheat that is milled, in order to have for each lot of flour a sample of the wheat from which it has been produced.

[An article on rules governing Italian wheat milling was published in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for Aug. 31, 1917.]

WATER CARRIERS' SUCCESS DEPENDS ON LOCAL ENERGY.

Genuine improvement in the river and harbors of the United States can not be expected without the cooperation of the municipalities or other public and private agencies within the States, in the view of the Committee on Rivers and Harbors of the House of Representatives. Water terminals must be provided, water carriers must be organized and maintained, and there should be a complete coordination between the water-transportation lines and the railroads. In order that this may be more generally recognized, and steps taken to meet the demand for the movement of products by water, which has been made acute under war conditions, Congressman John H. Small, chairman of the committee, has addressed a letter to Secretary of War Baker, suggesting that through the district engineers of the United States this matter be brought to the attention of the governors of States, mayors of municipalities, and officers of commercial and civic organizations in the respective districts. The letter is as follows:

I am directed by resolution adopted by the Committee on Rivers and Harbors of the House of Representatives to make this communication.

It is conceded that the Federal Government has jurisdiction over all navigable waterways, and it is the established policy of the Congress to make provision for the improvement of meritorious projects consistent with the demands of the country for additional means of transportation by water. As the House of Representatives must initiate all legislation and appropriations for the improvement of rivers and harbors, of which this committee has jurisdiction, the members of the committee desire to discharge their duties in the most effective manner. The primary purpose in the improvement of our rivers and harbors is to provide adequate channels for navigation and thereby to promote transportation by water. It is self-evident that the mere deepening of the entrance to or increasing the depth and area of a harbor or the improvement of the channel of an interior waterway will not alone establish water transportation. Likewise neither will the construction of a railroad track assure traffic. They simply provide the basic necessity for transportation.

There are additional facilities which must be provided for the establishment of water transportation:

1. There must exist a demand for the movement of products.
2. There must be water terminals constructed in accordance with appropriate plans. These terminals require ample water front and capacious warehouses. They should be physically connected by a belt-line railroad with the railroad or railroads serving the community, and one or more good highways should radiate therefrom. They should be equipped with modern appliances for transferring freight between the water carrier and the warehouse and the rail car in the cheapest and most expeditious manner. These terminals should be constructed by the municipalities or other agencies of the State and maintained and regulated for the service of the public. The size and cost of such terminals will vary according to the population and the financial ability of the community to be served and the volume of traffic which exists.
3. There must be one or more established lines of water transportation with sufficient capital, the requisite number of carriers, and a complete traffic organization.
4. There should be a complete coordination between the water transportation lines and the railroads, and a prorating of traffic as to through rates between the water carriers and the rail carriers such as now exists between the several lines of railroads, to the end that each may complement the other and be jointly dedicated to the service of the public.

The committee submit that the above additional facilities are both necessary and feasible. They further suggest as a general proposition that water terminals must be provided by the States or by municipalities or other public agencies of the States, and that water carriers must be organized and maintained by individuals, corporations, or other local agencies. It may be substantially stated

that Congress may only improve for purposes of navigation the capacity of the harbors and the channels of the interior waterways.

It will be admitted that there are a limited number of harbors and a larger number of interior waterways on which the foregoing essentials have not been provided. In fact, it may be stated that the people of the country, including even that forceful class of citizens who manage large industrial units and are vitally interested in transportation, appear to have slight knowledge of the primary essentials for securing transportation by water. The demand for the movement of products by water which exists under normal conditions has been made acute under war conditions, but in many cases the essential facilities are lacking.

The committee are impressed with the conviction that it is their duty to direct attention to this serious dereliction of duty upon the part of the public and to express the opinion that appropriations should not be made for the improvement of those rivers and harbors where the communities and localities are continuously unwilling to discharge their correlative duty by providing the facilities essential for the promotion of water transportation.

The committee have not established any arbitrary or inflexible rule. They are conscious that the public must be induced to realize its obligations in the development of water transportation by the processes of publicity and education. They find it difficult to excuse larger cities, where production is large and additional facilities of transportation are so insistent and where neither ignorance nor poverty can be pleaded in extenuation. The committee are further aware that time will be required, even where the civic conscience has been aroused, to provide these facilities and to fully utilize navigable waterways. For the present the committee only insists there shall be no willful disregard of local and public obligations in these respects.

On behalf of the committee I have the honor to suggest that a copy of this communication be transmitted through the department to all district engineers in the United States, with the request that they submit a copy of the same to the governors of the States in which their districts are located, to the mayors of municipalities, to the officers of all commercial and civic organizations in their districts, and that they give publicity to same through the press as far as may be practicable.

Views Indorsed by Secretary of War.

In acknowledging the receipt of this letter from the chairman of the Committee on Rivers and Harbors, Secretary Baker indorses the views presented, and states that in accordance with the request of the committee, the Chief of Engineers will distribute the appeal for action by local interests through the engineer offices having charge of river and harbor improvements in various parts of the country. The reply from Secretary of War Baker is:

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your letter of October 5, 1917, giving the views of the Committee on Rivers and Harbors of the House of Representatives on the general subject of the facilities for water transportation that should be furnished by local interests in order to warrant and make effective the Government improvement of channels, and expressing the opinion of the committee that Government appropriations should not be made for localities that persist in disregarding these obligations. This statement has my hearty approval, and I shall take pleasure in bringing it to the attention of the Chief of Engineers for compliance with your request that it be distributed through the local engineer offices having charge of river and harbor improvements throughout the country. I consider it a most opportune reminder to local interests generally of the essential part they must take in the rational development of water transportation, so that it may best serve the commercial and industrial needs of the country.

COLD WEATHER AFFECTS MEXICAN CROPS.

Consul John R. Silliman wires from Guadalajara, Mexico, that the cold weather and the sudden close of the rainy season have greatly affected the growing crops. Only 40 per cent of corn is now estimated, and beans less, and the district will barely support itself.

ANALYSIS OF THE FOREIGN COMMERCE FOR AUGUST.

The usual monthly statement of the foreign trade of the United States has just been completed by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, Department of Commerce. The imports and exports by great groups during the month of August and the eight months ended August, 1917, are presented in the following statement:

Groups.	Month of August—		8 months ended August—	
	1917	1916	1917	1916
IMPORTS.				
Crude materials for use in manufacturing.....	\$118,069,159	\$82,868,999	\$886,683,167	\$729,499,768
Foodstuffs in crude condition and food animals.....	29,170,040	18,954,893	253,757,478	157,180,745
Foodstuffs partly or wholly manufactured.....	35,910,616	26,946,433	270,097,679	256,134,461
Manufactures for further use in manufacturing.....	51,723,303	37,792,033	364,287,422	265,349,068
Manufactures ready for consumption.....	31,901,723	32,628,991	262,579,224	225,901,193
Miscellaneous.....	1,079,926	1,124,561	9,192,635	13,070,795
Total imports.....	267,854,767	199,316,480	2,046,597,605	1,667,136,054
EXPORTS.				
Crude materials for use in manufacturing.....	85,605,845	53,098,891	439,058,066	397,288,945
Foodstuffs in crude condition and food animals.....	36,863,313	33,799,901	380,143,657	258,863,333
Foodstuffs partly or wholly manufactured.....	64,720,283	49,967,393	527,050,234	425,330,018
Manufactures for further use in manufacturing.....	107,594,277	83,996,779	856,884,524	555,247,079
Manufactures ready for consumption.....	189,203,998	274,536,263	1,866,118,351	1,705,537,705
Miscellaneous.....	2,244,326	9,750,298	40,970,618	56,626,289
Total domestic exports.....	486,232,052	506,149,525	4,112,226,062	3,396,993,372
Foreign merchandise exported.....	3,777,119	5,017,913	39,369,559	38,508,573
Total exports.....	490,009,171	510,167,438	4,151,615,611	3,435,501,945

Exports of principal items under the heading "Miscellaneous" for August, 1917, were: Horses, \$1,652,808; mules, \$415,393; and seeds, \$162,247; and for the eight months ended August, 1917: Horses, \$26,980,141; mules, \$11,096,638; and seeds, \$2,469,761.

Trade by Grand Divisions and Countries.

The total value of merchandise imported from and exported to each of the principal countries during August and the eight months ended August, follows:

Grand divisions.	Month of August—		Eight months ended with August—	
	1917	1916	1917	1916
IMPORTS FROM—				
Grand divisions:				
Europe.....	\$45,453,027	\$53,710,620	\$408,909,157	\$442,509,138
North America.....	76,095,517	54,817,920	601,969,497	458,064,019
South America.....	49,335,683	31,517,355	433,454,592	286,670,788
Asia.....	82,167,199	52,341,496	492,336,181	353,720,184
Oceania.....	9,108,768	5,830,545	54,174,391	74,395,661
Africa.....	5,694,573	1,698,554	55,693,477	51,776,344
Total.....	267,854,767	199,316,480	2,046,597,605	1,667,136,054
Principal countries:				
Austria-Hungary.....		18,818	52,361	515,026
Belgium.....	16,752	90,768	157,726	854,817
France.....	9,349,583	10,061,333	71,092,554	75,832,497
Germany.....	3,493	82,579	155,998	4,896,681
Italy.....	1,027,501	3,908,533	26,843,745	42,632,006

Grand divisions.	Month of August—		Eight months ended with August—	
	1917	1916	1917	1916
IMPORTS FROM—continued.				
Principal countries—continued.				
Netherlands.....	\$1,409,600	\$4,594,015	\$15,990,386	\$30,440,952
Norway.....	903,285	484,789	5,150,523	4,066,327
Russia in Europe.....	1,431,607	1,703,710	4,391,667	3,558,389
Spain.....	3,232,600	2,300,036	25,978,730	21,981,434
Sweden.....	2,061,662	1,886,934	15,795,025	8,977,117
Switzerland.....	2,323,553	2,643,780	13,623,479	15,383,518
United Kingdom.....	19,125,758	24,596,556	215,803,727	219,115,921
Canada.....	34,181,128	21,441,213	251,889,694	138,144,495
Mexico.....	12,598,602	9,030,938	84,907,925	70,299,231
Cuba.....	22,592,635	17,738,141	205,234,682	193,652,650
Argentina.....	14,463,627	9,673,401	133,898,842	84,436,983
Brazil.....	9,489,957	6,856,027	106,334,520	79,807,977
Chile.....	13,958,642	5,666,925	96,025,767	56,394,589
China.....	12,458,369	7,507,091	89,212,120	56,367,492
British East Indies.....	26,882,683	18,471,183	169,362,531	143,943,961
Japan.....	30,474,468	19,912,111	154,263,757	114,770,886
Australia and New Zealand.....	3,274,368	1,265,887	16,322,536	50,761,549
Philippine Islands.....	4,807,518	4,297,893	34,683,168	21,442,510
Egypt.....	101,392	316,353	24,871,077	26,284,675
EXPORTS TO—				
Grand divisions:				
Europe.....	310,513,333	359,354,483	2,770,181,786	2,379,835,429
North America.....	107,666,859	84,880,788	833,149,707	567,133,992
South America.....	24,888,205	21,662,408	187,504,667	139,450,882
Asia.....	34,580,060	27,136,901	263,261,668	247,617,157
Oceania.....	6,014,063	12,272,520	64,193,766	70,288,901
Africa.....	6,346,591	4,860,338	31,322,017	31,175,781
Total.....	490,009,171	510,167,438	4,151,615,611	3,435,501,943
Principal countries:				
Austria-Hungary.....				61,771
Belgium.....	545,478	4,155,859	17,253,557	16,256,865
Denmark.....	983,090	5,570,133	30,821,530	36,640,641
France.....	52,130,888	72,671,652	653,766,081	543,027,443
Germany.....			3,275	1,118,281
Greece.....	81,232	2,733,685	6,784,048	23,680,950
Italy.....	39,991,874	32,668,151	237,773,709	168,950,803
Netherlands.....	5,641,733	11,824,319	58,392,383	71,028,370
Norway.....	2,450,455	6,420,118	56,523,050	42,148,936
Russia in Europe.....	24,989,069	51,255,433	239,696,766	171,336,805
Spain.....	4,032,870	3,676,284	53,955,208	37,873,633
Sweden.....	1,041,364	3,557,352	20,623,892	26,638,937
United Kingdom.....	176,350,685	159,437,596	1,358,678,326	1,215,775,975
Canada.....	71,395,962	56,845,240	575,378,106	374,953,812
Central America.....	3,973,134	3,631,673	34,788,293	28,828,039
Mexico.....	10,547,936	3,851,585	65,827,485	31,532,994
Cuba.....	17,930,403	15,623,187	113,806,297	98,172,121
Argentina.....	9,640,832	8,264,325	62,255,007	51,511,427
Brazil.....	4,338,378	4,943,671	40,153,607	30,617,718
Chile.....	5,151,201	2,930,566	32,971,480	19,338,224
China.....	2,914,439	3,438,092	25,286,176	20,214,626
British East Indies.....	3,610,681	2,922,100	25,766,339	18,314,698
Japan.....	15,504,594	7,365,129	93,352,704	64,275,064
Russia in Asia.....	8,880,309	10,228,127	86,449,626	125,165,072
Australia and New Zealand.....	1,726,432	9,984,197	41,593,339	54,576,936
Philippine Islands.....	4,122,966	2,193,906	21,481,152	14,700,148
British Africa.....	5,514,107	3,447,575	23,349,008	20,680,539

SEA DEFENSE WORK IN BRITISH GUIANA.

The bureau has received from Consul George E. Chamberlin, of Georgetown, plans and specifications for the construction of sea-defense works in British Guiana. These may be examined at the district offices in New York, Boston, and New Orleans; refer to file No. 93614. Bids are called to be submitted by October 31, but it is probable that an extension of time may be arranged.

CONSTRUCTION WORKS.**BRAZIL.**

[Consul Samuel T. Lee, Rio Grande, Rio Grande do Sul.]

Laying of Sewers and Water Mains in Rio Grande.

Excavation has begun for the laying of sewers and larger water mains in the city of Rio Grande, Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil. It is expected that some of this work will be far enough advanced within a year to give service in the central part of the city. There will soon be a demand for modern sanitary installation, equipment, and supplies, and American manufacturers and exporters should get into touch with dealers in Rio Grande at once. Correspondence and literature in English will serve, as, fortunately, all of the leading dealers in these lines understand English. Prices and terms should be quoted at once, if possible, and it would no doubt be advisable to offer samples at the lowest possible prices to dealers for exhibition purposes.

[A list of dealers in sanitary supplies at Rio Grande, Porto Alegre, and Pelotas can be obtained at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district or cooperative offices by referring to file No. 92518.]

COSTA RICA.

[Consul Benjamin F. Chase, San José, Sept. 6.]

Proposed New Railway.

Mr. Philip W. Chamberlain, San José, Costa Rica, member of American Society of Civil Engineers, has a project for the construction of a railway from Alajuela to Grecia, Costa Rica, a distance of 25 kilometers (about 16 miles).

There is one hitch in the concession, so far as the contract is concerned, with the Minister of Public Works. The proposition of Mr. Chamberlain is to put down a 30-inch gauge track, making foundation on that basis, with an agreement to change to a 42-inch gauge after 20 years. The Government desires the foundation to be made at once for a 42-inch gauge, although conceding the use of the narrow gauge for 20 years. The concession is to be for 99 years. The Government agrees to advance bonds for \$3,000 American gold per mile, or a total of \$75,000, secured by direct tax on the region benefited.

The contract is subject to the approval of Congress, which does not meet again in regular session until May, 1918.

The railroad will require equipment not now at hand as follows: Three 12-ton locomotives, twenty-five 8-ton freight cars, enough 20-pound rails for 15 kilometers, telegraph and telephone equipment, and other necessary equipment.

SCOTLAND.

[Consul Rufus Fleming, Edinburgh, Sept. 19.]

After-War Construction Work.

Notwithstanding taxation will rest heavily upon every community in consequence of war expenditures, soon after the return of peace large projects must be undertaken in this part of Scotland. Streets and highways have been badly worn by increased traffic and repairs

have been deferred; harbor construction and improvements, for which full arrangements were made several years ago, are in abeyance owing to financial and labor problems; and tramway extensions, important housing schemes, sewerage works, industrial plants, land-clearing and drainage enterprises, and the development of mines and quarries are among the other works, public and private, which must receive attention when conditions will permit.

American manufacturers and exporters of machines for engineers and contractors in the various lines indicated could probably cover this market in the most satisfactory way from general agencies in English commercial and industrial centers to which the engineering and building concerns throughout the country are in the habit of sending orders for heavy machines of all kinds.

[A list of engineers, contractors, and others interested in public and other improvements, transmitted by Consul Fleming, can be obtained at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district or cooperative offices by referring to file No. 93494.]

TAIWAN.

[Consul M. D. Kirjassoff, Tathoku, Sept. 3.]

New Railway Construction.

The Imperial Japanese Diet has passed a bill authorizing the expenditure of 10,000,000 yen (\$4,980,000) for the extension of the Boryo and Giran railway lines in Taiwan. Of this sum 2,000,000 yen (\$996,000) is to be expended annually for a period of five years, the railways to be completed by the end of the fiscal year 1921. Operations are to be begun before the end of this month (September, 1917).

The construction contemplated is the extension of the Boryo Line from Ako to Boryo, with a view to serving the agricultural interests along the plain which the line will traverse, and the extension of the Giran Line from Hatto to Suwo. The Giran extension, which is chiefly through mountainous country, is expected to aid the development of coal mining in Zuiho and Chosokei districts, where, hitherto, operation has been unsuccessful because of the difficulty of getting the coal out. It is expected also that new veins of ore will be discovered.

URUGUAY.

[Consul William Dawson, Montevideo, Aug. 21.]

Work on Ship Yard at Montevideo Suspended.

By a resolution of August 13, 1917, the Uruguayan Government decided to suspend work on the construction of a shipyard (varadero) in connection with the Dique Nacional (national dry-dock). Its construction was contracted for on February 12, 1917, with the firm of Ambrosoli, Bonomi y Tourneille for approximately \$37,500. A commission appointed in May to inspect the work reported that the completion of the yard would cost nearly double the amount originally estimated. Furthermore, it is believed that before the close of the war it will not be practicable to obtain at favorable terms the traction winch necessary to operate the yard. The work completed thus far is satisfactory and can be continued later, when conditions are more favorable.

A YEAR'S REVIEW OF THE BRISTOL DOCKS.

[Consul J. S. Armstrong, jr., Bristol, England, Sept. 7.]

The annual statement of the Bristol Docks Estate for the year ended April 30, 1917, has just been submitted to the city council. The three docks of this port are owned by the municipality.

The disruption of the world's shipping trade by the war has had its natural effect on imports, and the interruption of the coastwise trade and of the traffic with the Continent has caused a very considerable reduction in the tonnage handled at the City Docks. Whenever the size of vessels intended for discharge at the port of Bristol has permitted their navigating the River Avon the cargoes have as a rule been brought to the City Docks. Bulk cargoes of grain, sugar, and other commodities have, however, usually been of such size as to necessitate their discharge at Avonmouth or Portishead, at the mouth of the river.

Tonnage of the City and Outer Docks.

The statistical information relates almost exclusively to the commercial traffic of the port. The net registered tonnage of vessels of all classes was 2,830,877, or 977,367 tons less than in the previous year. The tonnage in the year ended April 30, 1915, was 3,817,717; in 1914, 2,633,425; and in 1913, 2,433,935.

Imports of goods (ordinary traffic), foreign and coastwise, totaled 2,196,812 tons, compared with 2,596,049 in 1916, 2,728,772 in 1915, 2,970,410 in 1914, and 2,838,134 in 1913.

The principal falling off in commercial traffic was at the City Docks, where the total was 908,517 tons, against 1,189,354 in 1916 and 1,665,871 in 1913. The proportions of tonnage dealt with at the respective docks for the year preceding the war and for the two years ended April 30, 1917, were:

Docks.	1914	1916	1917
	<i>Per cent.</i>	<i>Per cent.</i>	<i>Per cent.</i>
City	16.1	21.8	23.8
Avonmouth	19.2	71.0	61.8
Portishead	4.7	7.2	14.3

It will be noted that there has been a gradual transference of tonnage from the City Docks to those at the mouth of the river.

Exports—Entrances—Coastwise Tonnage—Storage and Working Facilities.

The exports of goods, foreign and coastwise (ordinary traffic), amounted to 466,232 tons, compared with 518,026 in 1916, 621,698 in 1915, 788,687 in 1914, and 703,119 in 1913.

The number of over-sea vessels entering the port was 1,121, of which 263 were of foreign nationality. During the previous year the number was 1,329, including 335 foreign ships.

The net registered tonnage in coastwise trade declined by approximately 100,000 tons—a loss attributed to the fact that many of the larger vessels belonging to the principal lines trading to the more distant ports of the United Kingdom have been requisitioned by the Government, and that others have found more profitable employment elsewhere. Some of the smaller lines which have traded for more than half a century with Bristol Channel and Welsh ports have

entirely ceased running, but the dock's management expresses the hope that after the war this valuable method of distribution will be not only completely resumed but also largely extended.

During the previous year insufficient storage and working facilities had an unsatisfactory effect upon revenue, and in the year now under review these difficulties were much aggravated by the irregular character of the import trade, gluts alternating with periods of depression. During these periods of glut the available appliances were insufficient to deal with arrivals, resulting in delays in the discharge of vessels, and in many cases the ships were diverted to other ports to the detriment of the local dock revenue. The cold stores at Avonmouth have a capacity of 374,000 cubic feet, and new stores are in the course of construction. Extensive new smelting works, which will treat principally zinc ores imported from Australia, are also under construction at Avonmouth and are expected to bring a large addition to the trade of this port.

Revenue and Expenditure.

The capital expenditure on the dock undertaking to the end of the last fiscal year (Apr. 30, 1917) was \$31,630,279.

The year's accounts show a gross revenue of \$2,611,899 and a net revenue of \$796,383. The Borough rate was \$403,819, or \$68,131 less than in the preceding year. When the budget was framed for the current year the amount asked for was \$403,819, but upon a review of the accounts, in the light of present and prospective trade, the Docks Committee reduced its call to \$369,854.

The principal revenues were from dues on vessels (\$467,135, as compared with \$551,871), dues on goods (\$541,434, as against \$497,663), and traffic and warehouse departments (\$1,435,905, as compared with \$1,335,499). The gross revenue from city dues was \$56,252, and the net was \$14,551, which compares with \$68,292 for the year before the war.

Working expenses in all departments were heavy, and although the outlay on necessary maintenance and betterment was reduced to a minimum the proportion of gross revenue carried to net receipts decreased by 1 per cent. The money disbursed in salaries and wages to the permanent staff aggregated \$660,983, compared with \$634,489 in the preceding year. The sums paid for casual labor in the traffic department totaled \$512,574, compared with \$443,572. The combined amounts were, therefore, \$1,173,557, for year ended April 30, 1917, as against \$1,078,061 for 1916.

NEW STEAMSHIP SERVICE FROM MALAGA TO BRAZIL.

[Consul Louis G. Dreyfus, jr., Malaga, Spain, Sept. 5.]

The Cia Lloyd Nacional de Rio Janeiro will begin regular monthly sailings from Malaga to Brazilian ports on September 25. The vessels of this line have previously maintained a service between Genoa, Italy, and Brazilian ports, calling at Barcelona on the homeward voyage. The steamship *Arasuahy* will inaugurate the service from Malaga. The freight rate from Malaga to Rio Janeiro averages 85 pesetas (approximately \$17) per cubic meter. Hitherto freight from Malaga to Brazil was often routed by the Hall Line to Lisbon, Portugal, thence via the Portuguese Line to South America. The Pinillos Line also has sailings from Malaga to Brazilian ports.

FOREIGN TARIFFS.**CUBA.**

[Vice Consul L. A. Christy, Habana, Aug. 24.]

Conditional Sales.

American manufacturers are frequently called upon to make sales of their products to individuals or companies that are not prepared to pay the full purchase price, and in such cases it is a matter of great importance to retain control of the article until all of the terms of the contract have been satisfied. Particularly is this true of machinery and other articles of relatively high value, for which the full purchase price is ordinarily not immediately available. The practice common in the United States, whereby goods are sold on the installment plan with reservation of title until the full price has been paid is, however, not applicable in Cuba, where the word "sale" is understood to mean a complete transfer of ownership in spite of other reservations.

The plan which has been followed successfully by some of the largest American companies is to lease, or rent, the goods with an understanding that the rent paid shall apply on an agreed purchase price. When this has been paid in full the title passes to the purchaser. The underlying idea is that the goods have been rented for a given period at a specified rental with the option of purchase for a certain amount at the termination of the lease, as opposed to a sale of the goods with the reservation of some degree of control by the vendor.

A decision of considerable importance on this subject was recently rendered by one of the criminal courts of Habana, as reported by "La Prensa" of May 12, 1917. The defendant had purchased on the installment plan furniture to the value of \$450, and before the full purchase price had been paid sold it to another dealer, who in turn resold it to a third person. Under the circumstances, the court held that the defendant was guilty of fraud and sentenced her to imprisonment for four months and ordered the restitution of the furniture to the original owner. The case is regarded as furnishing a valuable precedent for future cases and as establishing conclusively the legality and enforceability of sales on the installment plan (*compra-ventas a plazos*). If this case is consistently followed the usual American form of conditional sales would doubtless be applicable, but for the present it is advised that leases of the kind described above be employed.

For a firm wishing to sell goods by means of leases with option of purchase it is desirable to have a representative in Cuba provided with a power of attorney in the proper form, who can handle the goods and enter into contracts for renting them to prospective purchasers.

[Copies of the decision referred to above (in Spanish) as also of the form of lease employed by one American firm have been received and will be loaned to interested persons upon application to the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, Washington, D. C.]

GUATEMALA.

[El Guatemalteco, Aug. 25.]

Suspension of Exemption for Central American Products.

In view of the failure of the free-trade convention adopted at the Third Central American Conference to secure the ratification of all

the signatory states, the Republic of Guatemala has given notice of the temporary suspension of the tariff provision permitting the free admission of the manufactures and products of reciprocating Central American countries.

MEXICO.

[Consul G. C. Woodward, Matamoros, Aug. 14.]

Prohibitive Duty on Cigar Lighters.

As a measure of protection to the domestic match industry, which has recently been subjected to increased taxation, the Mexican Government has increased the import duty on automatic cigar and cigarette lighters to 1 peso each. Formerly they were dutiable at a low rate as manufactures of the respective metal. As the retail value of these lighters is only about \$0.20 each the new duty effectively prevents their importation.

NICARAGUA.

[Consul Andrew J. McConnico, Corinto, July 11.]

New Duties on Alcoholic Liquors.

A law of June 20, 1917, materially modifies the tariff treatment of wines and liquors imported into Nicaragua, imposing duties on the basis of contents in liters, according to alcoholic strength, in place of the duties which were largely based on weight. As an example of the new duties, bottled whisky is dutiable at \$1.30 per liter, while liquors in general, unless specially mentioned, are subject to a duty of \$1.35 per liter. As compared with the former rates the new rates represent a substantial increase which becomes still greater by reason of the fact that the new duties are payable in gold, without reduction, whereas a deduction of 40 per cent was allowed in computing the former duties.

In order that the duties may be correctly assessed, it is required that consular invoices for whisky and other liquors show the name of the liquor, number of bottles or other containers, number of liters in each container, total quantity in liters, and the alcoholic strength. For wines the consular invoice must show the name, character (whether dry, full, or sparkling), number of bottles or other containers, number of liters in each container, total quantity in liters, and alcoholic content. Omission of any of these details may result in the imposition of a fine.

WORKINGMEN'S COTTAGE CITY ON CROWN LANDS.

[Consul General J. I. Brittain, Sydney, New South Wales, Australia, Aug. 29.]

The Government of New South Wales has set aside 337 acres of Crown land in the suburbs of Sydney for the erection of workingmen's cottages. Reservations have been made for roads, parks, and religious purposes, also for police stations, administrative buildings, etc. Two hundred and eleven acres are reserved for building sites, on which cottages are being erected seven to the acre. This will provide a total of 1,437 cottages and 40 shops.

Already 240 cottages and 6 shops have been completed. The cottages are of brick or concrete, with tile or slate roofs. The cost of constructing them ranged from £276 to £640 (from \$1,345 to \$3,115). They will rent for 12s. 6d. to 18s. 6d. (from \$3 to \$4.50) per week.

CHANGES IN MARKET PLACE OF DUTCH COLONIAL PRODUCTS.

[Consul Frank W. Mahin, Amsterdam, Netherlands, Aug. 6.]

The exports from the Dutch East Indies direct to the United States are very large this year in comparison with 1916—several times greater in quantity thus far, and presumably also in value, though this latter is not stated in the available returns. This gain is partly at the expense of Amsterdam. The item of coffee, formerly an important export from Amsterdam to the United States, is entirely eliminated this year from this consulate's records, while the exports direct from the Dutch colonies to the United States during the first three months of 1917 were 2,480,980 pounds against 477,733 pounds in the corresponding period of 1916.

Kapok and rubber, also former important exports from Amsterdam but now eliminated, increased very much in the quantity sent from the Dutch colonies to the United States during January-March, 1917, in comparison with 1916. Before the war considerable tin was sent from Amsterdam to the United States; now there is none, while the quantity sent from the colonies has much increased. No tobacco was sent direct to the United States from the Dutch colonies during the first quarter of 1916, but in the corresponding period of 1917 151,500 pounds were sent—apparently at the expense of Amsterdam, whose exports were much less this year than in January-March, 1916.

This change of place of export is due to two causes—lack of shipping to bring cargoes hither from the colonies and to carry them hence to the United States, and restriction of imports to the local requirements of the Netherlands by the belligerent powers controlling the seas. Whether this transfer of export to the United States will be permanent or not must be decided after the war. Should it be permanent, Amsterdam will seemingly be shorn of some of its present great importance as a market for Dutch colonial products.

MEXICAN INDUSTRIAL EXPERTS VISITING NEW YORK AND BOSTON.

A delegation of Mexican industrial engineers, headed by Messrs. Alejandro R. Cota and Abraham Ferriz Savinon, has just arrived in this country and is planning to visit New York during the week of October 15 to 20, and Boston during the week of October 22 to 27. They have been commissioned by their Government to investigate certain industrial problems and devices with a view toward facilitating the industrial reconstruction of Mexico. They are particularly interested in machines for the manufacture of various products from bananas and lemons, such as banana flour or meal, citric acid, etc. They are planning to visit various industrial schools and institutions for the training of the working classes, in order to found similar establishments in their country. In this connection the delegation hopes to get in touch with manufacturers of equipment and supplies for such schools.

During their stay in this country they can be reached through the district offices of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce in Boston and New York.

Buy a United States Government Bond of the Second Liberty Loan.

PROPOSALS FOR GOVERNMENT SUPPLIES AND CONSTRUCTION.

[Correspondence should be direct with the offices named, and specifications and other information can usually be obtained at the points where the goods are to be delivered or the work is to be performed. In cases where the time limit is too short to permit firms to submit tenders, they should ask to be placed on the mailing lists of such offices to receive notices calling for future supplies or work of a similar nature.]

Navy Department supplies, No. 4831.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Bureau of Supplies and Accounts, Navy Department, Washington, D. C., until the dates indicated herein; bidders desiring to submit proposals should give schedule numbers for furnishing the following: October 16, 1917, schedule 1523, steam-jacketed kettles; October 30, 1917, schedule 1524, solid covered arc-light carbons, split solid porcelain knobs, and unglazed porcelain tubes; schedule 1525, single portable switchboard type direct-current ammeters, back and front connected switch contact blocks and clips, cartridge type fuse blocks, soft hard plate carbon, contact ferrule fuse clips, double pole combination plug and switch cut-outs, plug type inclosed fuses, glass-tube fuses, link fuses, nonwater-tight portable guards, shade holders, electric soldering irons, white masthead lanterns, red green running lanterns, type C white signal lanterns, flexible plate mica, pressed plate mica, oiled insulating muslin, lead-acid type storage battery testing outfits, insulating fish paper, soldering paste, Edison base attachment plug, 5-ampere hooded receptacles, steel reflectors, pigtail copper ribbon, spring copper ribbon, nickel chromium resistance ribbon, illuminating set socket rings, cotton asbestos sleeving, incandescent lamp wall sockets, copper-covered saddle insulated staples, back-connected knife switches, indicating snap switches, cambric and muslin insulating tape, varnished silk tape, copper cable terminals, 2-hole terminals for 10-wire connection boxes, grade B pressed mica tubing, and hard rubber tubing; and October 23, 1917, schedule 1526, 150,000 pairs of high shoes.

Marine engine boiler, No. 4832.—Sealed proposals will be received by the Superintendent of the Coast and Geodetic Survey, Washington, D. C., until October 27, 1917, for supplying a water tube boiler for a 250 horsepower marine engine.

Levee work, No. 4833.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the Mississippi River Commission, first and second districts, customhouse, Memphis, Tenn., until October 23, 1917, for constructing about 1,870,000 cubic yards of earthwork in the upper St. Francis Levee District.

DOMINICAN MARKET NEGLECTED BY U. S. MANUFACTURERS.

[Consul Arthur McLean, Puerto Plata, Sept. 27.]

The Dominican Republic has an area of 19,325 square miles and a population estimated at 700,000 inhabitants. The island is extremely fertile and almost unexploited. It is a growing market and worthy of study and attention, yet it is visited by comparatively few salesmen from the United States.

As there is little or nothing manufactured in the Dominican Republic almost everything must be imported. There is an American bank here, as well as an American steamship line, so that the facilities for doing business are excellent. The island's proximity to the United States gives to that country a great advantage over European competitors. As a rule American salesmen go down one coast of Central or South America and come up the other, or they may go to Cuba or Porto Rico, but they seldom visit the Dominican Republic.

Almost all the salesmen who have visited the Puerto Plata consular district this year with samples of a line suitable for this trade, speaking Spanish and in a position to extend reasonable credits, went away satisfied. If more would come, similarly equipped, it is thought that they too would obtain equally good results.

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the Bureau and its district and cooperative offices. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and state opportunity number. The Bureau does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases. Symbols: * Reported by American consular officers; † Reported by commercial attachés and commercial agents; ‡ Direct inquiries received by the Bureau.

In considering the following "opportunities" special regard should be had to the laws and regulations governing export licenses and trading with the enemy.

Belting.....	25571, 25580	Hardware.....	25575
Canned goods.....	25572	Kitchen utensils.....	25575
Canvas tugs.....	25577	Lathes.....	25574
Cast iron.....	25574	Leather.....	25571
Clothing.....	25572	Machinery.....	25574
Cotton goods.....	25576	Measuring apparatus.....	25574
Cranes.....	25574	Shoes.....	25572
Electrical machinery and supplies.....	25574	Soap.....	25578
Fish, pickled.....	25573	Tools.....	25574
Furnishings, men's.....	25572	Under-shirts.....	25576
Groceries.....	25572	Varnishes.....	25579

25571.*—An agency is desired by a firm in Brazil for the sale of shoe leather, furniture leather, glove leather, belting, and artificial leather. Cash will be paid. Shipments are preferred through some reputable export house which understands documentation for Brazil. Correspondence may be in English. Reference.

25572.†—A company in Peru desires to secure an agency for the sale of shoes, clothing, men's furnishings, etc., groceries, and canned goods. Correspondence may be in English. References.

25573.‡—A man in British Guiana desires to be placed in communication with American exporters of pickled fish, especially pollock, cod, hake, haddock, etc. Business is desired on a commission basis. References.

25574.*—A merchant in Russia wishes to purchase electric machines and supplies, steam turbines and compressors, pumps and ventilators, hauling machines, cranes, cast-iron, brass, and steel foundry plants, wood and metal working lathes, tools and instruments, physical and electrical measuring apparatus, etc. He also wishes to entertain an agency proposition. Correspondence may be in English. References.

25575.*—A dealer in Italy is in the market for large quantities of hardware and kitchen utensils of all kinds. Catalogues and samples, if possible, should be submitted. Correspondence should be in French or Italian. References.

25576.*—A firm in British East Africa desires to purchase unbleached gray cotton sheetings, 25 pieces to the bale, 30 yards to a piece, 36 inches wide, each piece weighing from 6½ to 8 pounds; cheap cotton blankets, 42 by 78 inches, packed 500 pieces to the bale; white cotton shirtings weighing 10½ pounds per piece, packed in cases of 50 pieces, each 40 yards; and cheap cotton undershirts with half sleeves. Payment will be made by cash against documents in New York. Each piece should be wrapped with waterproofed material, bales covered with 12-ounce burlap and well strapped. Correspondence may be in English. References.

25577.*—A man in Canada wishes to buy heavy draft canvas tugs. Quotations can be made f. o. b. Cash will be paid. Correspondence may be in English.

25578.*—A company in England is in the market for soap. Quotations should be made f. o. b. New York or San Francisco. Payment will be made by cash in the United States or against drafts on London. The soap should be put up in bundles containing four small cases, each case containing 100 four-ounce pieces. Reference.

25579.*—A firm in Italy desires to purchase all kinds of varnishes in large quantities, especially decorating and vehicle varnish. Correspondence should be in French or Italian. Reference.

25580.*—A company in India wishes to buy cotton belting. It also desires to secure an agency for the sale of this kind of belting. Payment will be made by cash against documents at destination. Correspondence may be in English. Reference.

OCT 16 1917

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1917

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ADMINISTRATION OF TRADING WITH THE ENEMY ACT.

The President, on October 6, 1917, approved the Trading with the Enemy Act and by an Executive order signed October 12, 1917, has established the administrative machinery to carry out its provisions. This act has conferred on the President war powers of the widest extent. It has added to the power to embargo all exports, which was conferred upon the President by the Espionage Act, the power to prohibit all imports into the United States except under such licenses as may be granted. It has conferred on the President the power to prohibit or regulate all transfers of credits, money, currency, bullion, and securities between the United States and all foreign countries. It imposes severe criminal penalties on all persons who trade or communicate directly or indirectly with an "enemy" or "ally of enemy," or with any person acting on their behalf or for their benefit. It creates a definition of an "enemy" and "ally of enemy" with which it is highly important that every citizen of the United States should promptly familiarize himself for his own protection and for the loyal support of the Government in its efforts to wage the war to a successful termination. The act further provides for the use in the United States of enemy-held patents which may be of assistance to us in carrying on the war. It provides for taking over and administering the property in the United States of "enemies" and "allies of enemies." It confers upon the President complete power to censor all communications of every sort passing between this country and any foreign country. It provides certain regulations with regard to the foreign language press in the United States. These are merely the broad outlines of the act, but it will readily be seen that the act confers power to deal effectively with the abnormal conditions of trade created by the war and the exigencies of the public safety.

Certain of the powers conferred by the act the President has directed to be exercised through the State Department, the Treasury

Department, the Attorney General, the Post Office Department, the Commerce Department, and the Federal Trade Commission. As to many of the powers conferred upon the President by Congress in this act, no single existing department is interested, and the President has provided for their joint administration by a War Trade Board composed of representatives of the departments which are most vitally concerned. The new War Trade Board so established is composed of Mr. Vance C. McCormick, chairman, as representative of the Secretary of State; a representative of the Secretary of the Treasury to be appointed; Dr. Alonzo E. Taylor, as representative of the Secretary of Agriculture; Mr. Thomas D. Jones, as representative of the Secretary of Commerce; Mr. Beaver White, as representative of the Food Administrator; Mr. Frank C. Munson, as representative of the United States Shipping Board. Mr. Thomas L. Chadbourne, jr., is counselor to the board. The functions and organization of this board are as follows:

Exports.

The War Trade Board, under the President's direction, succeeds to all the functions which have been exercised by the Exports Administrative Board, which goes out of existence. The proclamations of the President forbidding the export of various articles without a license are continued in full force and effect, but licenses will hereafter be granted by the War Trade Board instead of by the Exports Administrative Board, and all applications for such licenses and all correspondence with regard to them should be addressed to the Bureau of Exports of the War Trade Board. Its headquarters will, for the present, continue to be 1435 K Street NW., Washington, D. C. It will take over the branch offices at present established and being established in various cities in the country by the Exports Administrative Board, and these branch offices will have the same power and functions as to exports under the War Trade Board that they now have under the Exports Administrative Board. The War Trade Board will deal with exports under the powers created by Title VII of the espionage act approved June 17, 1917.

Imports.

The Trading with the Enemy Act confers upon the President the power to prohibit the importation of any article or to impose the terms and conditions upon which it may be imported. No proclamation has yet been issued by the President imposing any such prohibition or restriction; but, upon the issuance of such proclamation, the licensing of such importations will be done by the War Trade Board.

Trading With the Enemy.

The Trading with the Enemy Act makes it unlawful, under severe criminal penalties, to trade without a license with any person who there is probable cause to believe is an enemy or ally of enemy. The act gives an extremely broad definition of what constitutes trade. It provides that "trade" shall be deemed to mean—

(a) To pay, satisfy, compromise, or give security for the payment or satisfaction of any debt or obligation.

(b) To draw, accept, pay, present for acceptance or payment, or indorse any negotiable instrument or chose in action.

(c) To enter into, carry on, complete, or perform any contract, agreement, or obligation.

(d) To buy or sell, loan, or extend credit, trade in, deal with, exchange, transmit, transfer, assign, or otherwise dispose of, or receive any form of property.

(e) To have any form of business or commercial communication or intercourse with.

The definition of an "enemy" or "ally of enemy" requires careful consideration. In the first place, any person, no matter of what nationality, who resides within the territory of the German Empire or the territory of any of its allies or that occupied by their military forces is expressly made an "enemy" or "ally of enemy" by the act. Even citizens of the United States who have elected to remain within such territory are "enemies" or "allies of an enemy" within the provisions of the act. Further, any person not residing in the United States of whatever nationality and wherever he resides, who is doing business within such territory, is placed within the definition of "enemy" or "ally of enemy." So also is any corporation created by Germany or its allies. So also is any corporation created by any other nation than the United States and doing business within such territory. Further, for the purposes of this act the Government of any nation with which the United States is at war or the ally of such nation and every subdivision of such Government, and every officer, official agent, or agency of such Government is an "enemy" or "ally of enemy," and the act makes no distinction as to where such officer, official agent, or agency may be located.

It is important for the public to have clearly in mind that not only is it unlawful to trade with an "enemy" or "ally of enemy" without license, but it is equally unlawful to trade with any person who there is reasonable cause to believe is acting for or on account of or for the benefit of an "enemy" or "ally of enemy," and it makes no difference what the nationality or what the residence of such person may be. On the other hand, in dealing with subjects of Germany who are resident in the United States, it is important to remember that, while other provisions of law make it possible to intern them, the mere fact of their nationality does not make them "enemies" within the meaning of this act and so prevent persons in this country from having ordinary commercial relations with them.

The Trading with the Enemy Act, however, while imposing such stringent provisions, gives power to the President to grant licenses to trade with the enemy. The exercise of this power has been delegated by the President to the War Trade Board. Applications for license to trade with an "enemy" or "ally of enemy," or a person acting on behalf of or for the benefit of an "enemy" or "ally of enemy" should be sent to the War Trade Board.

Enemies Doing Business in the United States.

The Trading with the Enemy Act provides that a person who is an "enemy" or "ally of enemy" under the definition of that act, doing business within the United States, may within 30 days after its enactment, apply for a license to continue to do business in the United States. The main application of these provisions will be to German or ally of German concerns which are doing business in the United States through branch houses or agents, such as insurance

or reinsurance companies. Such an "enemy" or "ally of enemy" may continue to do business within the United States until such applications are acted upon, but under the restrictions, in the case of insurance companies, of the President's proclamation of July 13, 1917. It will not be necessary under these provisions, however, for a German subject or the subject of an ally of Germany who is resident in this country to apply for a license unless for some other reason he falls within the definition of "enemy" or "ally of enemy" as explained above. If a license is granted to an "enemy" or "ally of enemy" to do business within the United States it is then lawful for anyone within the United States to trade within the United States with such "enemy" or "ally of enemy" without himself applying for a license. Such "enemy," however, even if it is granted a license to do business within the United States is prohibited from the time the act takes effect from transmitting out of the United States any money or property, or using such money or property as a basis for the establishment of any credit within or outside of the United States for the benefit of, or on behalf of an "enemy" or "ally of enemy." Applications for license by an "enemy" or "ally of enemy" in the United States to continue to do business in the United States should be sent to the War Trade Board, except in the case of "enemy" or "ally of enemy" insurance companies, in which case they should be sent to the Treasury Department.

Change of Name.

No "enemy" or "ally of enemy" doing business in the United States, or a partnership in which an "enemy" or "ally of enemy" was a member at the beginning of the war, can make a change of name during the war without a license. The War Trade Board is empowered by the President to receive and act on applications for such licenses.

Communicating With the Enemy.

The Trading with the Enemy Act prohibits and imposes severe penalties on taking or sending any communication in any form out of the United States intended for any enemy or ally of the enemy, and also makes it unlawful to bring in or take out of the United States any form of communication except by mail. Power is given by the act, however, to relieve from these prohibitions by license, and the Secretary of the Treasury is empowered by the President to receive applications for and grant such licenses.

War Trade Council.

In addition to the War Trade Board the President has created a War Trades Council composed of the Secretary of State, the Secretary of the Treasury, the Secretary of Agriculture, the Secretary of Commerce, the Food Administrator, and the Chairman of the United States Shipping Board. This War Trade Council will take the place of the Exports Council, and will act in an advisory capacity in such matters as may be referred to it by the President or the War Trade Board.

Patents.

The act contains various provisions as to the application for patents by citizens of the United States in enemy and ally of enemy countries during the war, and for the use in the United States by

citizens of the United States of enemy-held patents during the war, and also for the suspension of information as to certain patent applications made in the United States, secrecy as to which is necessary for military reasons. The Federal Trade Commission is empowered by the President to deal with all these matters, receiving applications and granting licenses with regard to them.

Custody of Enemy Property.

Among the most important and far-reaching of the provisions of the Trading with the Enemy Act are those dealing with the taking over by this Government of the custody and control of "enemy" property within the United States.

The property affected by these provisions is that which is located in the United States and belongs to any person or corporation that is an "enemy" or "ally of enemy" within the definitions of the act referred to above, except those licensed to continue doing business in the United States. German subjects and the subjects of her allies resident in the United States do not, from the mere fact of their nationality, fall within these definitions. The act makes it the duty of every concern within the United States, issuing shares or stock, within 60 days after the approval of the act to report to the Alien Property Custodian the names of such of its officers, directors, and stockholders as are known to be or reasonably believed to be "enemies" or "allies of enemy," and the amount of stock or shares owned by each.

The act provides in addition, under severe penalties, that every person in the United States holding any property for an "enemy" or "ally of enemy," or for any person whom he may have reasonable cause to believe to be an "enemy" or "ally of enemy" must report the fact to the Alien Property Custodian within 30 days after the passage of the act. So also any person in the United States indebted in any way to an "enemy" or "ally of enemy," or to a person whom he may have reasonable cause to believe to be an "enemy" or "ally of enemy," must make a similar report.

The Alien Property Custodian may, under the provisions of the Executive order, require a transfer to himself of any property held for or on behalf of an "enemy" or "ally of enemy," or the payment of any money owed to an "enemy" or "ally of enemy," by a person in the United States. In addition, any person in the United States so holding any property or so owing any money may transfer such property or pay such money to the Alien Property Custodian with his consent.

Property or money transferred to the Alien Property Custodian will be held until the end of the war and then dealt with as Congress shall direct. All funds or ready money may be invested in Liberty bonds and held in such form.

The President has delegated to the Attorney General the power to direct the payment of claims against enemy property in the hands of the custodian upon the consent of all persons interested.

The President will hereafter name an Alien Property Custodian.

Control Over Foreign Exchange and Transfers of Gold.

The President, by his Executive order, has committed to the Secretary of the Treasury the executive administration of the broad powers conferred by the act as to the prohibition and regulation of a

transfer between the United States and foreign countries of coin, currency, bullion, credits, and securities. The Secretary of the Treasury will continue with the assistance of the Federal reserve banks to pass on applications for leave to export bullion, coin, and currency. No prohibitions or regulations have as yet been made as to the transfer of credits or securities between the United States and foreign countries.

Censorship Board.

The President has created a censorship board to administer such regulations as he may prescribe as to the censorship of cables, telegraph, and mail communications between the United States and foreign countries. This board is composed of representatives, respectively, of the Postmaster General, of the Secretary of War, of the Secretary of the Navy, of the War Trade Board, and of the chairman of the Committee on Public Information.

Foreign Language Press.

The Trading with the Enemy Act provides that every paper printed in a foreign language shall furnish translations to the Postmaster General of the matter concerning the war printed by it, unless a permit to omit doing so is granted to it. The administration of this provision is committed to the Postmaster General and applications for such permits should be made to him.

Transporting an Enemy.

The act provides that it shall be unlawful for any person without a license to transport or attempt to transport into or from the United States, or for any American vessel to transport in any part of the world any citizen of an enemy or ally of an enemy nation. The administration of this provision is vested in the State Department and authority given the Secretary of State to grant the necessary licenses for such transportation.

Clearance Provisions.

Collectors of customs are given the right to refuse clearance to vessels which are transporting cargo in violation of the provisions of the Trading with the Enemy Act. Power to review such refusal of clearance by the collector is vested in the Secretary of Commerce by the Executive order of the President.

ITALIAN WINE CROP OF 1917.

[Consul B. Harvey Carroll, Jr., Venice, Sept. 13.]

The Italian Department of Agriculture has given to the press of Italy a statement that this year's wine crop will be a bumper one of 40,000,000 hectoliters (1,056,710,000 gallons), as against 28,000,000 hectoliters (739,697,000 gallons) in 1916.

Railroads are preparing to handle the large crop, and a large consignment of new railroad cars built in America, recently arrived, are being hastily assembled for this service.

Copies of the Trading With the Enemy Act have been furnished to the district and cooperative offices of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, where they may be examined by persons interested.

FAVORABLE WEATHER FOR EGYPTIAN COTTON CROP.

[Consul Arthur Garrela, Alexandria, Sept. 4.]

According to reports of the Ministry of Agriculture and the Alexandria General Produce Association for August, the weather has been quite favorable for the Egyptian cotton crop and the water supply ample. Some slight attacks of cotton worm have been reported from Upper Egypt, the worms being the remnants of the third generation that escaped destruction. The cotton in Lower Egypt showed a greater infection by *Gelechia* than in the previous year up to the end of the first 10 days of August, but the rate of increase in the locality was slower during the following 15 days, so that, by the 25th the infection by this pest was actually 5 per cent lower than at the same period last year. In Middle Egypt the increase has been more rapid and the percentage of infection is double what it was at the same period in 1916. The same remarks apply to Upper Egypt, where the infestation is nearly double that of last year at the same time.

In Upper Egypt first pickings have commenced in most of the early lands and will be general in a few days.

The actual condition of the crop assures a return per feddan superior to that of last year.

NEWFOUNDLAND POULTRY INDUSTRY.

[Consul James S. Benedict, St. John's, Sept. 18.]

At a largely attended special meeting of the Newfoundland Poultry Association matters pertaining to the fall exhibition were discussed. It is desired that this exhibition shall excel those previously held, and several new features are expected to be introduced. It is anticipated that a judge from one of the Ontario colleges will be present, and that illustrated lectures on poultry raising will be given. The association is now arranging for the distribution of 100 or more cockerels for breeding purposes for 1918 pens.

At the meeting it was stated that, owing to the advance in grain products, it would be impossible to sell eggs this winter at less than \$1 a dozen, as feed which sold last year at \$2 a sack is now bringing from \$4 to \$5 a sack. Most of the eggs consumed in Newfoundland are imported from Canada and the United States, and the supply at present is limited. They are retailing at \$0.60 a dozen. Imported poultry (dressed) is selling at \$0.45 a pound, and the local product, which lacks the weight and flavor of the imported, at a few cents less.

GREECE ADOPTS 24-HOUR SYSTEM.

[Consul General Alexander W. Weddell, Athens.]

By a royal decree the Hellenic railways, posts, telegraphs, army, navy, steamship companies, etc., were ordered to adopt the 24-hour time system beginning August 28, 1917. This system brings Greek railway and steamship schedules in line with Italian and other continental systems. The day begins at midnight, and the hours run consecutively until 24 o'clock, which will be midnight of the completed day. This system has been in use in the local astronomical observatories for many years.

COTTON CONSUMED AND ON HAND IN UNITED STATES.

The United States Bureau of the Census reports that cotton consumed during September, 1917, exclusive of linters, amounted to 522,735 running bales (counting round as half bales), compared with 528,288 bales in the corresponding month of 1916. The amount consumed for the two months ended September 30, 1917, was 1,092,086 bales, compared with 1,086,068 bales for the corresponding period in the preceding year. Cotton on hand September 30, 1917, in consuming establishments amounted to 959,324 bales, compared with 1,328,368 bales at the corresponding time in the preceding year; and in public storage and at compresses 1,570,951 bales, compared with 2,614,365 bales on September 30, 1916.

The figures given include 17,917 bales of foreign and 7,612 bales of sea-island consumed; 81,396 bales of foreign and 26,255 bales of sea-island held in consuming establishments; and 39,034 bales of foreign and 23,752 bales of sea-island held in public storage.

Linters not included were 89,088 bales consumed during September, 1917, and 61,949 bales in 1916; 100,474 bales on hand in consuming establishments on September 30, 1917, and 72,723 bales in 1916; and 99,241 bales in public storage and at compresses in 1917, and 82,426 bales in 1916. Linters consumed during two months ending September 30 amounted to 168,057 bales in 1917 and 134,067 bales in 1916.

PROJECT FOR BUILDING CONCRETE SHIPS IN DUNDEE.

[Consul H. Abert Johnson, Dundee, Scotland, Sept. 4.]

According to the daily papers of this city a letter has recently been received by the Dundee Harbor Trust from the Caledon Shipbuilding Co., in which it was stated that the offer by the Harbor Trust of a building site for the construction of concrete ships was accepted. This site is to include approximately 14 acres, situated near the fish docks, and will be put in condition by the Harbor Trust immediately for the commencement of work on the building of the shipyard by the Caledon Co.

This announcement has excited the liveliest interest in shipbuilding circles. The Harbor Board has suitable grounds at its disposal on the water front which it can offer to the promoters of this new venture. In the opinion of a local expert in shipbuilding, there is a strong probability that the building of concrete vessels will not prove to be merely a temporary makeshift, but that, provided they fulfill the expectations of shipbuilders, they are destined to hold an important place in the future of the maritime commerce of the world.

MEDICAL SCHOOLS AND HOSPITALS IN CHINA.

Through the courtesy of Roger S. Greene, of the China Medical Board of the Rockefeller Foundation, Commercial Attaché Julean Arnold, of Peking, has forwarded to the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce a list of missions in China maintaining hospitals. A copy of this list will be loaned to interested persons making application to the Bureau; refer to file No. 2671.

INCREASED USE OF ELECTRIC VEHICLES IN ENGLAND.

[Consul Franklin D. Hale, Huddersfield, Sept. 13.]

The high price of gasoline (it is now costing more than \$1 per imperial gallon) and the multiplying of electrical supply stations are said to be creating a new demand for electric vehicles for both pleasure and commercial purposes in the United Kingdom. It is not supposed that such demand can be met by British manufacturers, so long as their energies are being devoted to supplying Government needs, but after the close of the war there will in all probability be a marked development along this line, since to maintain and operate certain electric vehicles will be more economical, there is much less noise while running on the road, and there will be standardization of construction. It is thought that through standardization it will be possible to construct a two-seated runabout complete for less than \$500, and a half-ton tradesman's van for about \$750.

A writer in a recent number of the *Electrical Times* says that the gasoline car came to the front because of the inefficiency of the first electric motor cars with their cumbrous machinery, unsatisfactory batteries, and inadequate facilities for recharging. To-day the situation is quite changed. Simplicity of operation is one of the outstanding features of the electric vehicle; and, given the correct voltage and the needed apparatus, any car owner can recharge his batteries from his house current. As a result, there are now 1,000 commercial electrics in use in this country against one-sixth that number before the war. Railroad companies are using them extensively, and in other lines of business, as well as for municipal use, the demand for them can not be met. In some cities electric power has been adopted for omnibus service. At pre-war rates for gasoline the relative over-all costs of running petrol and electric omnibuses worked out practically 17 and 15 cents per car-mile. The cost of gasoline has advanced 250 per cent, whereas the advance in cost of electric energy has been only about 10 per cent. At many places in England power for commercial electrics can be obtained for 2 cents per unit. An electric passenger car travels nearly if not quite a hundred miles on a single battery charge.

With the return of normal conditions it is quite probable that, for long distances with few stops, gasoline will still offer the greater efficiency, but for short distances with frequent stops electric motor cars will be the more economical; and it would seem that there might be a market for American cars if offered through an established agency in London or Manchester or some other large importing city.

EXPORT OF WOLFRAM FROM BURMA.

Vice Consul H. B. Osborn reports that, according to published statements, the exports of wolfram ore from Tavoy for July, was 221 tons 6 hundredweight, as against 258 tons 9 hundredweight, for the same month in 1916. There were no tin ore exports for July, whereas 5 tons 8 hundredweight were exported in that month last year.

Buy a United States Government Bond of the Second Liberty Loan.

PRODUCTS OF THE FISHERY INDUSTRY IN SZECHWAN.

[Consul George C. Hanson, Chungking, China, Aug. 18.]

Although well watered by rivers in the eastern part, Szechwan Province is poor in fishery products and on this account imports from the Province of Hupeh large quantities of fish, principally carp. In the Yangtze River and its main tributaries flowing through this Province are found the following varieties of fish: Lien yu, or bream; li yu, or carp; ch'ing po yu, or mackerel; fei tou yu (fat-headed fish); shui p'i tze yu (a very bony fish); hsiang yu, or elephant fish (on account of its long nose); ma hua yu (a small fish brown in color and spotted black); wu yu, or blackfish (*Philypnus sinensis*); chi yu, or bastard carp (*Carassius pekinensis*); la tze yu (not edible); and pai tsan yu (a small white fish like the sardine).

The lien yu, li yu, ch'ing po yu, fei tou yu, and the shui p'i tze yu are the most numerous, but only the lien yu (bream) and the li yu (carp) are caught in large quantities. The fish are most plentiful in the spring; summer and winter are the poor fishing seasons; the fall season is not so good as the spring season.

The carp from Hupeh are imported in large casks. The Chinese do not use refrigerating methods of shipping, but pack these fish in salt water. Great quantities of this fish are consumed.

LIVE STOCK IN THE NETHERLANDS.

[Consul Frank W. Mahlin, Amsterdam, Netherlands, Aug. 3.]

Official figures are just published giving the result of an enumeration of cattle, sheep, and swine in the Netherlands during March and April, 1917.

The number of cattle, all kinds and ages, was 2,301,532; in 1910 it was 2,026,943—a gain of 13.5 per cent in 1917. The number of sheep counted this year was 520,275; in 1910 it was 483,082—a gain of 7.7 per cent. The number of swine counted this year was 1,185,438; in 1910 it was 1,259,844, showing a loss of 5.9 per cent during the seven years.

In connection with these figures it is remarked that during the period of six years from 1904 to 1910 the number of cattle increased 20 per cent and swine 25 per cent. Comparison of sheep is not possible, as the manner of numbering them was changed during that period.

CONCESSION FOR AUTOMOBILE IMPORTS IN AUSTRALIA.

A communication received on October 12 from Mr. Ernest Hall, official representative in New York of the Department of Trade and Customs of Australia, gives further particulars as to the importation of automobiles in derogation of the import prohibition. (See COMMERCE REPORTS for Oct. 6 and 12.)

The importation will be permitted of all motor cars ordered prior to August 10, 1917, and shipped from the factory on or before December 31, 1917. Cars not ordered prior to August 10 will be admitted provided each complete car is accompanied by two chassis. This statement is of value in showing that shipment from the factory satisfies the conditions of the concession.

BRIDGING OF THE ST. LAWRENCE RIVER NEAR QUEBEC.

[Consul W. Roderick Dorsey, Quebec, Canada, Oct. 8.]

The bridge over the St. Lawrence River 5 miles above the city of Quebec was practically finished when the great center span was lifted and bolted into position on September 20, 1917. The completed viaduct is impressive in size and details of composition. Its chief claims to fame are the immense reach between main piers and the introduction of a new idea in bridge construction. It is the first bridge to have a central span suspended from cantilever arms, and the clear, unbroken spread of 1,800 feet thus attained is the longest in the world.

Value of the Bridge to Canada.

The structure derives its economic worth from the fact that it is the first point at which the St. Lawrence can be crossed by rail, and will link up the rural and urban districts of the north and south shores below Montreal in a manner more convenient for interchange of commodities than was known before. Its carrying of the Trans-continental Railway alone means an uninterrupted haul from the Atlantic coast to the Pacific.

Trains and traffic of other roads will also cross this great steel span, and beyond doubt much benefit will accrue to the whole Dominion from the facility of communication afforded. Quebec City should reap advantage from its proximity to the northern head of this viaduct, and with improved harbor and terminal facilities its importance as a railway center and a port should increase.

United States Supplies Material and Skill.

The United States has played an important rôle in the successful carrying out of the project. Much material and skill that went into the work originated across the border. One great steel plant in the United States is said to have manufactured all structural steel shapes, plates, and bars, including carbon and nickel steel, while another American company supplied the reinforcement used in the concrete sidewalks. The chief engineer during the construction of the cantilevers was an American, and both the engineer of construction and the superintendent of erection throughout the work, as well as several assistant engineers and skilled mechanics, were citizens of the United States.

AFFORESTATION WORK IN NEW ZEALAND.

[Consul General Alfred A. Winslow, Auckland, Sept. 10.]

There were 5,848,930 forest trees raised at the four State nurseries in New Zealand during the fiscal year ended March 31, 1917, and 5,419,569 trees were planted in the eight Government plantations of the Dominion covering 2,764 acres. The total area planted since the start of operations in 1896 is 29,992 acres. Enough seeds have been ordered from France and America, for sowing next spring, to produce 2,500,000 trees to be used at the Rotorua nursery alone.

New Zealand's customs-revenue collections for January-June, 1917, amounted to \$8,228,261, as compared with \$8,948,170 for the first six months of 1916.

SUGAR SUPPLIES IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.

[Consul General Robert P. Skinner, London, Sept. 22.]

To provide for a more equitable distribution of sugar, the Food Controller is now working out a plan whereby the head of every household will receive a card, to be presented to an agreed retail dealer, who in turn will receive from the public authorities sufficient stocks from time to time to enable him to satisfy all demands made upon him. The cards will be employed from and after January 1, 1918. Special arrangements are being made for hotels and manufacturing establishments. It is hoped in this way to avoid congestion in retail establishments, where the customers sometimes form in line and have to wait for hours to obtain supplies for the coming week and then are often disappointed in the quantity which they receive.

In the meantime the first interim report of the Royal Commission on sugar supplies states that up to the end of 1915 the supply was maintained at a figure showing no reduction as compared with normal times, and there was nothing in the way of scarcity to cause hardship to the public. Such discomfort as there may have been was owing entirely to difficulties of distribution arising out of railway congestion and the changes in the character of importation.

Distribution Difficulties—"Profiteering."

It was not until the early part of 1916 that reduction in supplies, rendered necessary by exigencies of tonnage and of exchange, became appreciable and sufficient to attract public notice. Even so, the report states, the inconvenience and disturbance of the public mind resulting from the reduction have been greater than the reduction itself would justify if it could have been evenly distributed over the whole community. No serious privation would result if the domestic consumption of sugar were to be limited to three-quarters of a pound a week per head of population. To provide this allowance for the whole civil population of the United Kingdom would not require more than a weekly issue of 14,000 tons, but the weekly issues through the Sugar Commission have, during the period of greatest restriction, never averaged less than 24,000 tons a week, thus leaving an ample margin for the supply of the naval and military forces and for manufacturing purposes.

The commissioners view with "very solid satisfaction" their activities in regard to prices paid. "During the greater portion of the period of the commission's operations it is certainly the case that, exclusive of duty, the selling price of sugar in this country has been below that of sugar in New York, notwithstanding the added cost of freight."

To avoid profiteering by intermediaries the commission included in all contracts a clause that no wholesale dealer handling the commission's sugars should make a larger profit than that afforded by the discount of $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent (since reduced to $1\frac{3}{4}$ per cent on account of the increase in the duty) allowed by the practice of the trade on wholesale purchases, either from British refiners or from brokers. "The commission is satisfied that with all the principal dealers the condition has been loyally observed. Whether it has always been so by the smaller class of dealers intermediate between the first purchasers and retailers is doubtful."

Expenditures and Receipts.

The total disbursements and liabilities incurred (including freight) for sugar bought by the commission up to the end of November, 1916, was £81,097,000 (\$394,658,550), in respect of 3,951,349 tons (including purchases made on behalf of allied Governments), divided into 2,163,082 tons of raw and 1,788,267 tons refined. The total sum realized in cash was £75,263,000 (\$366,267,400). Transactions were estimated to show a profit of about £2,000,000 (\$9,733,000), representing no more than about one-eighteenth of a penny per pound on the sugar supplied. The commissioners are uncertain what effect peace will have on prices, but there is at least the possibility that it will be followed by a fall in the price of sugar and that some loss may have to be met on stocks then on hand.

UNITED STATES MARINES MAY SEND POTATOES FROM HAITI.

Consul John B. Terres, in a report from Port au Prince, Haiti, states that the cultivation of white potatoes has been carried on extensively in the mountain regions of the island by members of the United States Marine Corps, and that it is probable they will be able to export the product of their labor to the United States. They have large tracts of land on which they have been raising all kinds of vegetables.

Consul Terres gives a review of the market prices in Haiti for all classes of food products at the end of August. He states:

Beef is now sold in Port au Prince at 12 cents per pound. Very little difference is made in sales of the various parts. The meat is of good quality, principally young steers brought from the southern part of the island and from Dominican territory. They are fed entirely on grass, and no grain is given. They are slaughtered at night and the product is sold in the markets the following day. Meat is never kept on ice, except in a few instances during household use.

Mutton is 15 cents per pound. The sheep are raised throughout the island and are fed by grazing in the fields. They are never sheared for wool. Considerable goat meat is sold, mostly to the poorer people, at 12 cents per pound. The natives eat very sparingly of the home-bred pork, as they have a strong prejudice against it. The average price is 20 cents per pound.

Poultry and Agricultural Products.

Turkeys are sold in the markets and on the streets by women vendors at \$1.20 for a large gobbler, while small hens bring \$0.80. Chickens can be bought at \$0.50 to \$0.60 each. All poultry is sold alive. Domestic ducks are \$1.50 per pair; wild ducks \$1 per pair; guinea fowls \$0.80 per pair.

Eggs are sold at \$0.25 per dozen, and are never kept in cold storage. Native corn is \$4 per barrel; corn meal, 2 cents a pound; and native rice, 10 cents a pound; green bananas, at \$1 per 100 pounds, are largely consumed by the natives as a vegetable, cooked with meat or codfish. Green coffee is 11 cents per pound, and is rarely roasted. Granulated sugar is 15 cents per pound. The price of sweet potatoes is 5 cents per pound, and that of native white potatoes 6 cents.

Cabbages with large heads are 6 cents each; red beans, 4 cents per pound; egg plants, large size, 1 to 2 cents each; and all other vegetables, such as carrots, turnips, string beans, lettuce, water cress, etc., are sold at prices not one-sixth those in the United States.

Among fruits, alligator pears are 6 cents per dozen; breadfruit, 12 cents per dozen; pineapples, 12 cents a dozen; and bananas, 1 cent each.

All kinds of provisions are imported from the United States, such as flour, lard, butter, codfish, hams, bacon, salt beef and pork in barrels, and granulated and cut sugar, and command high prices on account of the advance in prices in the United States, the high freight rates, the delays in shipment, and the heavy customs dues.

BRITISH GUIANA TO BUILD 120-MILE CATTLE TRAIL.

[Consul George E. Chamberlin, Georgetown, Aug. 22.]

A special session of the Combined Court of British Guiana on August 20, 1917, authorized a loan of \$60,000 for the construction of a cattle trail from the Annai savanna on the Rupununi River to the Yawakuri savanna on the Berbice River, a distance of 120 miles. The trail is to be 30 feet wide through the jungle, and the estimate includes the cost of 10 clearings of 10 acres each, eight rest houses, two corrals, and two punts and a launch for crossing the Essequibo River at Kurupukuri.

There are at present about 35,000 head of cattle on the savannas in the Rupununi district, and it is estimated that over 1,000 head will be taken over the proposed trail yearly to the Berbice River and thence transported to the coast for the local market and export. It was stated in the court that there were 150,000 cattle on Brazilian ranches near the British Guiana border and that transportation to the coast by this trail would be less expensive than at present by Manoa and other places where markets were available. This trail will also make access to the interior of the colony for other purposes much easier and will reduce the time required for transit from four weeks to one.

Work upon the trail is to be commenced at once and it should be ready for use early next year.

GOVERNMENT NEEDS STENOGRAPHERS AND TYPEWRITERS.

The difficulty in obtaining a sufficient number of stenographers and typewriters for the unusual demands of the Government is giving the United States Civil Service Commission great concern. Thousands of such workers are urgently needed. Announcement is made that all who pass examinations for the departments and offices at Washington, D. C., are assured of certification for appointment. The Commission states in an appeal to the public:

It is the manifest duty of citizens with this special knowledge to use it at this time where it will be of most value to the Government. Women especially are urged to undertake this office work. Those who have not the required training are encouraged to undergo instruction at once. Examinations for the departmental service, for both men and women, are held every Tuesday in 450 of the principal cities of the United States, and applications may be filed with the Commission at Washington, D. C., at any time. The entrance salary ranges from \$1,000 to \$1,200 a year. Advancement of capable employees to higher salaries is reasonably rapid. Applicants must have reached their eighteenth birthday on the date of the examination.

For full information in regard to the scope and character of the examination and for application blanks address the United States Civil Service Commission, Washington, D. C., or the secretary of the United States Civil Service Board of Examiners at Boston, Mass.; New York, N. Y.; Philadelphia, Pa.; Atlanta, Ga.; Cincinnati, Ohio; Chicago, Ill.; St. Paul, Minn.; St. Louis, Mo.; New Orleans, La.; Seattle, Wash.; San Francisco, Cal.; Honolulu, Hawaii; or San Juan, Porto Rico.

GRENOBLE WALNUT CROP.

Consul Thomas D. Davis, reports from Grenoble, France, under date of September 5, that the Grenoble district will produce in 1917 a medium crop of walnuts of good quality; that the yield has been slightly reduced by local storms.

CANADA'S PURCHASES OF AMERICAN AUTOMOBILES.*(Consul Felix S. S. Johnson, Kingston, Ontario, Canada, Sept. 24.)*

During the six years ended March, 1917, Canada's imports of automobiles from the United States amounted to more than \$40,000,000. In 1912 the amount was \$6,077,497; in 1913, \$9,233,171; in 1914, \$6,459,346; in 1915, \$4,532,138; in 1916, \$5,790,498; and in the year ended last March, \$8,555,475.

Canada's imports of automobile accessories from the United States during the same periods amounted to nearly \$20,000,000, made up as follows: In 1912, \$854,000; in 1913, \$762,321; in 1914, \$3,965,173; in 1915, \$2,139,552; in 1916, \$4,693,003; in 1917, \$7,173,423.

The imports of automobile tires amounted to about \$7,000,000. The annual amounts were: In 1912, \$666,411; in 1913, \$1,507,916; in 1914, \$1,263,382; in 1915, \$1,044,592; in 1916, \$1,389,400; in 1917, \$1,217,532.

The 1913 reports showed that the number of registered cars in Canada had increased by 16,780, or 38 per cent, over the 1912 registration, and in 1914 the increase was 22,070, or 36 per cent, over 1913. After three years of war it is estimated that Canada this year is purchasing 100,000 new motor cars, almost five times as many as in 1914.

Becoming a Commercial Necessity.

The motor car in Canada is more and more coming to be considered a commercial necessity. It has aided in the movement of troops, facilitated the transportation of war material, increased the efficiency of the farm, aided in the quicker movement of all things pertaining to business, and has been a great economic factor in the development of general business.

More cars have been sold in western Canada during the past two years than in the East. British Columbia, with a population less than 500,000, scattered over wide areas of mountainous country, has automobiles in the proportion of one to every 78 of the population.

The trend of the buying is shown by the fact that fully 15,000 of the increase of 23,000 cars in Ontario were priced under \$1,500. A conservative estimate of the amount of money invested in private cars in Canada places it at \$135,000,000.

Many large firms in the United States have established branch factories in Canada on account of the high customs duties. The automobile body and machinery are imported separately, and afterwards assembled here.

OFFICES OF THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE.**DISTRICT OFFICES.**

NEW YORK: 734 Customhouse.
BOSTON: 1091 Customhouse.
CHICAGO: 504 Federal Building.
ST. LOUIS: 408 Third National Bank Building.
NEW ORLEANS: 1020 Hibernia Bank Building.
SAN FRANCISCO: 307 Customhouse.
SEATTLE: 346 Henry Building.

COOPERATIVE OFFICES.

CLEVELAND: Chamber of Commerce.
CINCINNATI: Chamber of Commerce.
CINCINNATI: General Freight Agent, Southern Railway, 96 Ingalls Building.
LOS ANGELES: Chamber of Commerce.
PHILADELPHIA: Chamber of Commerce.
CHATTANOOGA: South American Agent, Southern Railway System.
PORTLAND, OREG.: Chamber of Commerce.
DAYTON: Greater Dayton Association.

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the Bureau and its district and cooperative offices. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and state opportunity number. The Bureau does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases. Symbols: * Reported by American consular officers; † Reported by commercial attachés and commercial agents; ‡ Direct inquiries received by the Bureau.

In considering the following "opportunities" special regard should be had to the laws and regulations governing export licenses and trading with the enemy.

Bar iron.....	25581	Locomotives.....	25588
Bars, steel.....	25584	Looms and accessories.....	25585
Bolts and screws.....	25584	Machinery.....	25586, 25586, 25588
Bullion, gold and silver.....	25585	Motors.....	25588
Canvas.....	25582	Music and musical instruments.....	25589
Chains.....	25584	Piece goods.....	25582
Clothing.....	25582	Railways.....	25588
Confectionery.....	25587	Rice.....	25588
Cotton and woolen goods.....	25582	Tools.....	25588
Cottonseed oil.....	25588	Tractors.....	25583
Drills.....	25584	Vises.....	25584
Galvanized sheets.....	25581	Wire.....	25581
Hardware.....	25588	Yarns.....	25585

25581.*—A company in Portugal desires to secure an agency for the sale of bar iron, nail wire, galvanized wire, black sheets, baling wire, rivet wire, galvanized sheets, etc. Quotations may be made f. o. b. New York. Confirmed credit will be opened by telegram. Correspondence should be in French. Reference.

25582.†—A firm in Norway with a branch in the United States desires to purchase cotton goods, satens, linings, men's shirts, collars, haircloth, canvas, woolens, overalls, underwear for men and women, gingham dresses, and domestic goods. Quotations should be made f. o. b. New York. It also wishes to entertain an agency proposition. Payment will be made in New York against documents. Correspondence may be in English. References.

25583.*—A man in Mexico wishes to purchase tractors for agricultural purposes. Quotations should be made f. o. b. factory or Mexican border. Payment will be made by cash against delivery of shipping documents in United States currency. Correspondence may be in English. Reference.

25584.*—A business man in France wishes to secure an agency for the sale of steel bars, drills of all kinds, bolts, screws, chains, and vises weighing from 28 to 35 kilos (61½ to 77½ pounds) each. Reference.

25585.†—A company in Australia desires to purchase jacquard looms, ribbon and dobble looms and accessories, braid machines, embroidery machines and accessories, cotton yarns and silk yarns for weaving, gold and silver bullion for embroidery work in various qualities, gold tinsel for weaving cap ribbons, etc. Quotations should be made f. o. b. Payment will be made by cash through New York commission house. Shipment will also be made through New York firm. Reference.

25586.*—A man in Mexico who is manufacturing ebony "swagger sticks" wishes to receive catalogues, price lists, etc., from American manufacturers and exporters of latest turning machinery, with a view of purchasing same. Correspondence may be in English.

25587.*—A firm in China desires to secure an agency for the sale of all kinds of confectionery suitable for tropical trade, put up in 1-pound boxes, tins, glass jars, etc. Quotations may be made f. o. b. Pacific coast. Payment will be made by 30 to 60 days sight draft with documents attached, D/A. Correspondence may be in English. References.

25588.†—A firm in Chile is in the market for rice, cottonseed oil in bulk, mining machinery, hardware, tools, gas and petroleum motors, light railways and petroleum-burning locomotives for same. Payment will be made by cash against documents, 90-day draft, or as desired. Correspondence may be in English. Reference.

25589.*—A man in French Indo-China desires to be placed in communication with American manufacturers and exporters of music, pianos, organs, brass and wood musical instruments, violins, everything pertaining to lutes, etc. Payment will be made by cash or against documents. Correspondence should be in French. Reference.

OCT 17 1917
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MEXICO ORDERS BENZINE TRACTORS IN UNITED STATES.

A telegram from the American consulate general at Mexico City states that the Mexican Government has appropriated \$100,000 to purchase 50 benzine tractors and that a rush order has been cabled to a firm in the United States.

SHIPPERS' AGREEMENT PROVIDED BY WAR TRADE BOARD.

The War Trade Board, created by the Executive order signed by the President on October 12, 1917, has drawn up the following agreement, to be signed by exporters when shipping to their own branches in foreign countries:

To the WAR TRADE BOARD,
Washington, D. C.:

In consideration of the issuance to us of the license or licenses, for which application is pending before the War Trade Board, permitting shipment to us or to branch houses or agencies in countries other than the United States, we do hereby represent, declare, and agree as follows:

1. That none of the articles contained in any of the shipments for the licensing of which applications are pending, will be directly or indirectly re-exported or sold, transferred or delivered, either in their present or any other form, contrary to the engagement herein contained.

2. Neither we nor any of our branches or agencies are now engaged in exporting, reexporting, selling, trading, or doing business contrary to the terms of this engagement; and we declare that during the continuance of the present war we and none of our branches or agencies will export, reexport, sell, trade, or do business, directly or indirectly, with any enemy or enemy ally as herein defined, to wit:

(a) Persons or associations of persons residing in any country or ally of any country with which the United States is at war, including any territory occupied by the military or naval forces of such enemy or enemy ally nation.

(b) Any such persons or associations residing outside of the United States and doing business within such enemy or ally of enemy territory.

(c) Corporations incorporated in any country or ally of any country with which the United States is at war, including territory occupied by the military or naval forces of such enemy or enemy ally.

(d) Corporations incorporated in any country except the United States and doing business within such enemy or enemy ally country or territory.

(e) The government of any nation or ally of any nation with which the United States is at war, or any political or municipal subdivision thereof, or any officer, official, agent, or agency thereof.

(f) Such other persons, natives, citizens, or subjects of any country or ally of any country with which the United States is at war (other than citizens of the United States) wherever resident or doing business, as may by any presidential proclamation be included within the term "enemy."

3. And we engage not to sell or deliver, directly or indirectly, or trade or engage in the doing of any business with enemies or enemy allies as herein defined or for or on account of or on behalf of any such enemy or enemy allies during the continuance of the present war. And this engagement and declaration includes all exporting, trading, and doing business and shall not be construed as limited to the goods or articles described in the pending application for license.

4. No sales or deliveries of any of the articles constituting such shipments shall be made without having first obtained the written approval of the United States consul at the place where such sale or delivery is to be made.

5. This is a continuing obligation upon our part and shall apply without further agreement to all future shipments.

GERMAN METHODS OF ECONOMIC EXPANSION.

American business men need to form the habit of making it a definite part of their business to know something of what is being written along commercial lines in other countries. As a rule, the business man reads the trade papers carefully, but there he is apt to stop, neglecting to turn even to the rich book literature treating of topics in which he is vitally interested.

An interesting book on German methods of economic expansion has recently been published in Paris that should prove of value to American manufacturers, exporters, and all those in any way engaged in work connected with foreign trade. The book, written by Henri Hauser, a professor in the University of Dijon, is entitled "*Les Methodes Allemandes d'Expansion Économiques*," and its importance may be judged of somewhat from the fact that the second edition was issued in 1916 by the well-known French house, "Librairie Armand Colin." The book, which is dedicated to French chambers of commerce at home and abroad, deals with the following matters: German economic evolution of the last 40 years; necessity of expansion; chief factors of expansion (including banking and credit); cartels and dumping; State aids; conquest of markets (including systematic study of markets and commercial and industrial alertness); and a rather trenchant conclusion driving home the commercial lessons that ought to be learned from Germany, and some words of advice as to what should be imitated and what rejected.

Brazilian Imports of Coal During July.

Consul General A. L. M. Gottschalk, of Rio de Janeiro, reports that the arrivals of coal at that Brazilian port during July of this year totaled 61,674 metric tons (metric ton=2,204.6 pounds), against 44,624 tons in the corresponding month of last year and 94,751 tons in July, 1915. The United States supplied 53,174 tons, as against 39,549 tons in July, 1916, and 79,063 tons in July, 1915. British coal made up the remainder.

Buy a United States Government Bond of the Second Liberty Loan.

JAPANESE RAILWAY MISSION ARRIVES IN THIS COUNTRY.

A special mission representing the Imperial Japanese Railways has arrived on the Pacific coast and will undertake at once a study of American transportation and industrial conditions. The party will proceed east by way of the Grand Canyon, Pueblo, Denver, and Chicago, arriving in New York on October 21.

Secretary Redfield is arranging for the entertainment of the mission until it reaches Washington and has designated a Japanese-speaking representative of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce to conduct the members personally on their trip across the country. Prominent railroad officials have volunteered to furnish every facility for a thorough study of their systems. When the mission reaches Washington the State Department will receive it officially in behalf of the Government.

The object of the visit is to investigate the present transportation conditions in the United States, to inspect the principal industrial plants and mines, to study the loading and unloading of cotton, and to observe the methods employed in the large railroad sorting yards. There is also the object of further developing the good feeling between the two countries that has been growing so rapidly since the United States entered the war.

It is announced that the Imperial Japanese Railways are represented on the mission by Jiro Nakamura, assistant traffic manager; Akio Kasama, secretary and purchasing agent; Dr. Yasujiro Shima, director of machinery and rolling stock; and S. Kobayashi, resident engineer at New York.

GROWTH OF RUSSIAN COTTONSEED-OIL INDUSTRY.

[Chemical Trade Journal and Chemical Engineer, London, Aug. 18.]

The cottonseed-oil refining industry of Russia, established mainly in the districts of Ferghana, Murgal, and Merv, has lately been increased by the addition of two new mills and the enlargement of the old mills. The material equipment of the industry, before the new mills were established, showed thirty 16-inch hydraulic presses, seven 12-inch presses, and several smaller ones. The 144,000 tons of cotton seed formerly handled has increased to 192,000 tons. The exports of cotton seed from Turkestan in 1913 were about 20,320 tons. One pood (36 pounds) of cotton seed of the first grade yields 6.56 pounds of unrefined oil, 14.4 pounds of oil cake, and 19 pounds of husks and linters and other waste.

SHIPMENTS OF ARMS OR MUNITIONS OF WAR TO MEXICO.

On October 10, 1917, notice was given that collectors would no longer license, by use of the shipper's export declaration, shipments containing an amount of any one commodity less than \$100 in value, provided such shipments contained articles on the "conservation list."

The War Trade Board now announces, further, that collectors of customs will no longer license, by use of the shipper's export declaration, shipments of arms or munitions of war when destined to Mexico, even if the value be less than \$100. Shippers will therefore be required to file regular applications for proposed shipments of arms and munitions of war to Mexico and of all articles on the "conservation list" to every other territory.

THE RAG INDUSTRY IN SOUTHEASTERN FRANCE.

[Consul Thomas D. Davis, Grenoble, Sept. 6.]

The shipment abroad of rags from the Grenoble district is at present impracticable on account of the very high prices, the shortage of rags in this region, and the difficulties to be encountered in transportation to seaports.

The paper mills in the vicinity of Grenoble use high-grade linen and cotton rags, which come generally from the central, northern, and northwestern parts of France. They are classed at the mills as superfine linen, fine linen, choice cotton, and new calico rags. It is impossible to quote exact prices, but approximate figures per 100 kilos, as given by one of the larger mills, are: Superfine linen, superior, 162 francs; fine linen, superior, 116 francs; cotton, first, superior, 85 francs; cotton, second, superior, 75 francs; calico rags, superior, 92 francs.

Large Price Increases in Four Years.

Prices have increased since 1913 for the superfine linen 140 per cent, and for cotton, first, 80 per cent. The calicoes have varied little in price, having been always high.

Values which are furnished by one of the most important rag merchants of the district as being the approximate prices per 100 kilos made at the present time in France are: New light-colored calico prints, 60 to 65 francs; calico shirting, light colored, 65 to 70; new white calico cuttings, 110; unbleached calico cuttings, 100; new blue calicoes, 70; new khaki calicoes, 65 to 70; new dark calico prints, 30 to 35; new fustians, 35 to 40; new white linen, 170 to 180; mixed old white rags, clean linen and cotton, 80 to 85; light old calico prints, 40 to 50; dark old calico prints, 25 to 30; old fustians, 25 to 30.

EMPLOYEES OF LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE COMMENDED.

Several employees of the United States Lighthouse Service have been commended recently by Secretary of Commerce Redfield for especially meritorious conduct in giving assistance under conditions of peril. The men who were commended are:

Edmund Moore, keeper; C. E. Schulze, first assistant keeper, and E. Teeter, second assistant keeper of Scotch Cap Light Station, Alaska, for service rendered on August 18, 1917, to 12 shipwrecked men from the steamer *Kotohera Maru*, wrecked about July 27, 1917, on Amchitka Island, Rat Islands group, Alaska, in assisting the crew to land through a heavy surf.

Capt. T. S. Ludlam, commanding the tender *Sunflower*, for service rendered on September 13, 1917, by the *Sunflower*, in helping to extinguish fire at the coaling plant at South Pass, Mississippi River, La. Capt. Ludlam and the other officers and crew of the *Sunflower* are commended for prompt and efficient action in the matter.

Ole O. Johnson, keeper, and George H. Cullison, assistant keeper of Cobb Point Bar Light Station, Md., for assistance rendered on September 22, 1917, to five persons in a disabled motor boat.

Elno C. Mott, keeper of Deer Island Light Station, Mass., for assistance rendered on the night of September 23, 1917, to a party of five persons on board the disabled motor boat *Dreamer*.

Consul Johnson reports from Kingston, Canada, that the value of the articles invoiced at that consulate for the United States during the three months ended September 30 was \$1,162,926, a gain of \$463,485 over the corresponding period in 1916.

TRADE CONDITIONS IN THE SIAMESE MALAY STATES.

[Vice Consul Carl C. Hansen, Bangkok.]

According to a report of the British consular officer stationed at Singora in the Siamese portion of the Malay Peninsula, the total value of imports into the Provinces of Nakawn Sritamarat, Suraht, and Patani, which, with the Province of Puket, are included in the Singora consular district, during the year ended March 31, 1916, was \$1,266,706, while exports amounted to \$2,421,848.

The principal articles imported into the Province of Nakawn Sritamarat in 1915-16 were cotton goods, ironware, and provisions. Exports consisted principally of rice, cattle, copra, tin, and wolfram. The chief industries in this Province are agriculture and tin and wolfram mining.

The principal imports into the Province of Suraht were piece goods, oil, provisions, and sugar, while the principal articles of export were salt fish, tin, and rice. This is chiefly an agricultural district, though a certain amount of mining is also done.

To the Province of Patani, imports consisted chiefly of cotton goods, cotton yarn, petroleum, and provisions, while the principal goods exported were tin, copra, and bullocks.

There is practically no direct trade between any portion of the Signora consular district and Europe, the reason for this being that local traders are men of small capital and few of them can speak or write any European language. These traders are chiefly Chinese and Indians, and they deal exclusively with Bangkok and the Straits Settlements, generally with Chinese and Indians in those places. Some, however, deal with European firms in Bangkok and Singapore, and also in Penang and Ipoh. Export firms desirous of doing business with the Singora district should, therefore, appoint agents in Bangkok or the Straits Settlements.

Transportation Facilities.

In normal times a Siamese company runs a regular steamship service, two boats a week, from Bangkok to Singapore, calling at all the principal ports along the coast. At present, however, only one boat is running. A small French steamer has started running between Bangkok and Singora.

There is railway communication from Bangkok as far south as Nadoo, the station for Patani town. Before the end of 1917 it is probable that the line from Singora to Alor Star, and thence to Penang, will be available, though it may not be formally opened to passenger traffic before 1918.

Japanese goods are gradually coming into the Singora market. They consist for the most part of cheap nickel and enamelled wares; toilet requisites, such as soaps and perfumes; and matches and photographic materials.

Contract Awarded for Moncton's New Hotel.

Consul E. Verne Richardson reports from Moncton, New Brunswick, under date of October 6, that the contract for the new hotel which is to be built in Moncton, as announced in *COMMERCE REPORTS* of September 17, 1917, has been awarded to a local builder. The estimated cost of the hotel completed will be about \$175,000. Construction work is to begin immediately.

BRITISH RETAIL COAL PRICES ORDER.

[British (Government) Board of Trade Journal, Sept. 20.]

Under the retail coal prices order, 1917, dated September 11, which has been made by the board of trade at the instance of the controller of coal mines, maximum retail prices of house coal throughout the United Kingdom are now to be definitely fixed.

In view of the wide differences in the cost of coal in different localities, due mainly to transport charges, but partly also to differences in the maximum colliery prices and in local merchants' costs of distribution, the duty of fixing the maximum retail prices in each locality has, by arrangement with the Local Government Board, the Scottish Office, and the Irish Office, been assigned to local authorities. In England and Wales these functions will be exercised by borough, urban district, and rural district councils; in Scotland by county and town councils; and in Ireland by borough and urban district councils, town commissioners, and rural district councils.

Net Profit One Shilling a Ton.

The basis on which the maximum prices are to be arranged by the local authorities is contained in the order, Article I of which provides that the net profit from sales of coal delivered by road vehicle from a depot or wharf or railway siding, in lots of 1 ton or over, shall not exceed 1s. (24 cents) per ton. This net profit includes all interest charges and salaries to owners, partners, and directors of the business, but not remuneration to owners of small businesses in respect of manual labor or clerical work performed by them. The order further prescribes how the prices for sales of smaller lots than 1 ton are to be fixed by reference to the maximum prices of lots of 1 ton or over.

The local authorities are to meet the local coal merchants, and after investigation of the figures submitted by them are to publish in the local press lists showing the prices chargeable under the order for the various classes of coal sold in the district for household purposes. When prices have been so published by the local authority such publication is to be conclusive evidence that the prices comply with the provisions of the order.

Instructions to Local Authorities.

To save the local authorities the trouble of investigations into costs in every locality a detailed memorandum has been forwarded to each local authority embodying the results of a careful examination made by the controller of coal mines of the position in a large number of localities in different parts of the country. As a result of this examination it has been ascertained that in general (except in the case of sea-borne coal) retail prices should not exceed the prices in operation in the 12 months prior to the war by more than 6s. 6d. to 7s. 6d. (\$1.58 to \$1.83) per ton, the lower of these figures applying more particularly to towns in the neighborhood of colliers. In certain cases, however, the increases over pre-war prices are less than these amounts, and in such cases there should be no increase in the present prices. On the other hand, in other districts an increase of more than 7s. 6d. per ton over prewar prices may, owing to special circumstances, be justifiable.

The local authorities have been informed that if the prices submitted to them by the merchants do not exceed the pre-war prices

by more than the above amounts they may be regarded as complying with the order and may at once be published as the maximum prices for the district. If, however, the proposed increase over pre-war prices exceeds the appropriate amount mentioned above, the local authorities are to request the merchants to furnish particulars of the increases in costs in order that the reasonableness of the prices which they suggest may be verified. The local authorities have been provided with detailed instructions for checking increases in costs in the various elements making up the retail price of coal, i. e., colliery prices, factors' or wholesale merchants' charges, transport charges, and retail merchants' depot and incidental expenses and cartage.

Display of Price Schedules.

The order further prescribes that persons selling coal from vehicles or at shops in quantities not exceeding 2 hundredweight [224 pounds] shall display the prices at which the coal is sold in the manner required by the order. The provisions with regard to the display of prices on vehicles does not apply to the area of any county council in Scotland or of any rural district council in England or Wales or Ireland except so far as the local authorities, with the approval of the controller of coal mines, apply it.

The provisions of the order with regard to the fixing of prices do not apply to such parts of the areas of local authorities in the Metropolitan police district and adjoining areas as are for the time being subject to the provisions of the household coal distribution order, 1917. The controller of coal mines is in communication with the London coal merchants as to the prices to be fixed under the order for the Metropolitan area.

AMERICAN BRANCH BANK ESTABLISHED IN MARACAIBO.

[Consul Emil Sauer, Maracaibo, Venezuela, Sept. 3.]

The Mercantile Oversea Corporation, 38 Pine Street, New York City, has opened a branch at Maracaibo, with temporary headquarters at the Hotel Colón. In its circular notice to the business interests of this city, dated August, 1917, announcing the establishment of the branch, the management states that the Mercantile Oversea Corporation is a subsidiary company of the Mercantile Bank of the Americas (Inc.), of New York, an institution organized under the auspices of Brown Bros. & Co., J. & W. Seligman & Co., and the Guaranty Trust Co., of New York; the National Shawmut Bank, of Boston; and the Anglo & London-Paris National Bank of San Francisco, and was established in 1915, with an authorized capital of \$5,000,000 and a paid-up capital and surplus of \$2,500,000.

The circular states further that the branch here will receive propositions for the sale of Venezuelan products to the United States and to Europe, and for the purchase of merchandise abroad for importation into Venezuela. Further, that it will make the customary advances on consignments of coffee, cacao, sugar, and other products of this country, and finally, sell and buy foreign exchange. It appears that the branch here will be more of a mercantile establishment than a purely banking institution.

The management of the branch here will be in the hands of Señor Merciales, a citizen of Colombia, director; M. Nicolle, a citizen of France, subdirector, and M. Van Daalen, a subject of the Netherlands, cashier.

ADEN'S TRADE IN DATES.

[Consul Addison R. Southard, Aden, Arabia.]

Dates are an important item in both the import and export trade of Aden. The average annual quantity passing through the Aden market during the past five years has been 159,020 hundredweight (of 112 pounds each), and the average annual value \$382,380.

This fruit is probably the most important single item of food used by the natives of this district. The Arab is ordinarily assumed to be the principal consumer of dates, but the greater portion of the considerable quantity handled in this market is consumed by Somalis. Aden date merchants make by far the largest exports to Somaliland ports on the neighboring African coast, and during the past two years increasing quantities of dates have gone there to be used as food because of diminished supplies of rice and other grains which ordinarily are important in the native Somali diet. Some of these people eat little else than dates and meat during the periods when grains are scarce or high in price. The Turkish Yemen takes the next largest supply of dates from Aden. Shipments normally enter that Province through Hodeida, but this port has been closed to trade during the past two years, and dates for the Yemen as well as for other Arabian Red Sea Provinces now enter through the small ports of Mocha, Gaizan, and Fursan, which are still open to trade. Abyssinia also imports considerable quantities of dates from Aden.

Grades of Dates Handled—Methods of Packing.

Aden merchants import their greatest supplies of dates from Maskat and Basra. Maskat dates are of two qualities, the best being known by the trade name of Fard and the second grade being known as Zakal. The Basra dates imported are classified under the two trade names of Samaran and Hallawi. The Fard date in the Aden market, which is usually in a half-dried state, is considered the best and is preferred by the Arabs and Indians. The Zakal is a wet date, and is considered as of second quality. The Somalis prefer and consume large quantities of this variety. The wet dates keep much longer and better than the dried or semidried kinds.

The Aden market is supplied with dates direct from the places of production. Native sailing boats known as dhows or buggalows leave Maskat and Basra about the end of October and reach Aden a month later with date cargoes; arrivals continue until May. The Basra dates are shipped in round while the Maskat dates are shipped in flat bales. The bales from either place are wrapped in matting and weigh about 6 maunds (168 pounds) each. One buggalow carries from 3,000 to 4,000 bales. The normal arrivals during the season are from 50 to 60 buggalows. These boats also carry pearls and Persian carpets to the Aden market, but the greater portion of their capacity is taken up by bales of dates.

Prices—No Shipments Abroad.

Maskat dates sold during the past season in the Aden market at an average price of 12 rupees (\$3.90) per bale and the Basra dates sold at an average of 2 rupees (\$0.63) less per bale. Dates carried over from the preceding year find a ready market at an average reduction of \$1.30 from the regular price per bale. This reduced price is effective upon the arrival of new stock.

Notwithstanding the large quantities of dates handled in the Aden market, none are exported abroad, the entire quantity being consumed within the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden districts. Although the Aden hinterland is supplied to a considerable extent with imported dates, there are a number of date groves in that country, the fruit from which is largely consumed while fresh. Normally fresh dates are always obtainable in the Aden market during the season.

Although it would seem that owing to disturbed conditions in the Persian Gulf region there would be diminished supplies of dates, local dealers say that they have had no trouble in securing their usual supplies. Moreover, they pay from 10 to 15 per cent less for the fruit than before the war. This has prevented a greater increase in the native cost of living, as grains and other food items have become much more expensive. Dates are an excellent substitute for the more expensive foods.

The Possibility of Shipments to United States.

Owing to its position as a trade center with direct connections to foreign markets, local dealers are of the opinion that Aden could and may become a center for the export of dates abroad. Buggallows must come to Aden for cargoes of grain, kerosene, cotton piece goods, and similar merchandise, which are distributed from here in important quantities to the date-growing districts, and cargoes of dates can be brought to Aden without the otherwise high transportation charges which would add materially to the cost landed here. The possible establishing of direct steamship connections between Aden and the United States would undoubtedly make it profitable to bring dates in this way from Maskat to Aden for export to American importers.

[The names of Aden date merchants may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district and cooperative offices upon referring to file No. 98318.]

OUTPUT FROM LENS COAL MINES.

[Iron and Coal Trades Review, London.]

According to figures supplied by the director general of the Lens coal mines in France, the output for 1913 was: Coal, 3,867,197 tons; coke, 661,201 tons; briquets, 125,133 tons. Since October 4, 1914, however, the mine field has been on the line of fire. Damage caused by floods and the destruction of machinery leave no doubt of the impossibility of a normal output for some time to come.

Consul General at Singapore Visits United States.

A dispatch has been received from Consul General Edwin N. Gunsaulus, at Singapore, Straits Settlements, stating that he expected to arrive in the United States about October 10 and that inquiries concerning trade matters in the Straits Settlements and Malay Peninsula may be addressed to him in care of the Consular Bureau, Department of State, Washington, D. C., during the period of his leave.

PAINTS AND VARNISHES IN THE EXPORT TRADE.**SPAIN.**

[Consul Louis G. Dreyfus, jr., Malaga, Aug. 8.]

It is estimated that in the Malaga district water paints or color washes are used in painting the exterior and interior of more than 80 per cent of the buildings. Most of the edifices are of brick coated with plaster. The walls usually are thick to exclude the heat in summer. There are probably not more than 30 days of rain each year. Blue sky prevails from March until November and the rays of the sun tend to fade and scale off the paint of the buildings. As a result these usually are painted once a year, just preceding the rainy season. In most cases the annual coating is of color wash or water paints.

The process of preparing the wash is very simple. Ordinary lime is mixed with colors and water. Most of the colors are manufactured in the country. Some difficulty has been experienced in obtaining ultramarine and prussian blue, which were formerly imported from Belgium and Germany. Limited quantities are now coming from France and Great Britain. Almagra, lampblack, green zinc, oxide of iron, oxide of zinc, ochers, etc., are some of the coloring powders used. These are principally prepared in Spain. Small quantities of prepared powder to make color wash, such as "Matolin" and "Muropint," are imported from Great Britain. The advantage of these imported colors is that they do not rub off as do the locally prepared washes. However, as a result of the considerably higher cost the imported article does not compete effectively with the local product.

Foreign Supplies of Paint and Pigments.

England supplies small quantities of higher grade paints in this market. "Ripolin," a French product, is sold here, and the United States also supplies some prepared paints. Most of the paint used, however, is locally prepared by the consumers. Pigments, such as white lead and zinc white in both powder and paste form, manufactured in Barcelona, are sold here by the paint merchants. These are mixed with linseed oil, turpentine, and coloring matter by the users.

White lead in paste is packed in 5 and 10 kilo tins. White lead in powder comes in barrels of 100 kilos or more. It sells at 115 pesetas per 100 kilos (peseta at present exchange=\$0.235; kilo=2.2 pounds). Zinc white also comes in 5 and 10 kilo tins, in about 15 colors. The wholesale price in Barcelona is from 45 to 80 pesetas per 100 kilos, the white being most expensive. Zinc white in powder can be obtained in Barcelona at 150 to 250 pesetas per 100 kilos. Linseed oil also is manufactured in Spain, and the present wholesale price is about 233 pesetas per 100 kilos.

Some Handicaps to the Trade.

In figuring on trade in this market the coastal freight rate of about 3 pesetas per 100 kilos must be added. The high freight rates and the customs duty, which on pigments in paste form is 25 pesetas per 100 kilos, make it very difficult for foreign competitors to be

successful, although the superiority of foreign paints and associated materials is recognized here.

The principal manufacturers of paints and varnishes in Spain are Argemi & Compañia, and P. Ventura & Compañia, both of Barcelona. There are a few other manufacturers in Bilbao and other cities of the Peninsula, and all are reported to be doing increased business.

A falling off in imports of ingredients used by painters, during the war, has been due to higher freight rates, difficulty of trading with belligerent countries, and increased domestic production. Imports for 1913, 1915, and 1916, in metric tons of 2,204.6 pounds, were:

Articles.	1913	1915	1916
	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>
Unground ochres and umbers.....	1, 101	385	39
Varnishes.....	668	1, 498	552
Mineral colors in powder or coarse.....	2, 087	1, 516	1, 077
Mineral colors prepared in oil.....	1, 020	757	912

Marine Paints and Varnish.

Copper or antifouling paint of good quality is not made in Spain. England has furnished most of this until recently. Light-buff funnel paint, as well as "Danboline," for painting holds; fine enamel paints, for house and marine use; international composition, for ship bottoms; and boat top are all imported mostly from England. The copper paint is sold by the manufacturers c. i. f. Malaga at 14 pesetas per gallon, with a 10 per cent discount. International composition for ship bottoms is laid down in Malaga at 2.50 pesetas per kilo for first coat and 4 pesetas per kilo for second coat. The international composition and boat-top paints are imported in 25-kilo drums.

Varnish also is manufactured in Spain, but the foreign product is noted for its superiority. England and America have been supplying this market. The cans are usually of $\frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{1}{4}$, and 1 gallon. There is a good opportunity to increase American sales of varnish and fillers.

Various Supplies for Painters.

Floors in Malaga houses usually are of tile, mosaic, and marble slabs. Consequently wax for floors is not used. Putty is brought from Barcelona in limited quantities, but most of it is locally made by mixing carbonate of lime and linseed oil.

Paint brushes come from Tolosa and Barcelona. Before the war Germany supplied this market. Most of the brushes used by painters are cylindrical in shape. The bristles are about 4 inches long and usually are held together by a copper or iron band, though very often cord is used for this purpose. The wooden handle is cylindrical, about $\frac{1}{2}$ inch in diameter and 1 foot in length. Both white and black bristles are employed. They are designated as hog bristles, but these have become so scarce that horse hair is coming into use. All sizes of brushes from No. 1 to No. 12 are sold, but Nos. 4, 5, 6, and 7 are most popular. These are very plain and simple and cost from $1\frac{1}{2}$ to $3\frac{1}{2}$ pesetas. The prices have risen considerably since the outbreak of the war. Local painters usually buy the bristles separately and prepare their own brushes by tying the bristles with cord to the handles.

There is at present a great demand for bristles, and American producers have an excellent chance to enter the market.

Terms and Customs Charges.

In quoting prices it would be expedient for American manufacturers to make them c. i. f. Malaga in order to compete on even terms with British manufacturers. If this is not possible at present, it would be advisable to furnish an estimate of the insurance and freight charges, which would be given without the assumption of any responsibility. Attentions of this kind are very much appreciated by importers.

The rates of duty on colors, dyes, and varnishes per 100 kilos (220.4 pounds) are: Par. 194, ochers and coloring earths for painting, unground, and aluminum in powder, 0.10 peseta, gross. Par. 195, ochers and coloring earths for painting, ground, 0.65 peseta, gross. Par. 198, varnish with alcohol base, 30 pesetas, gross. Par. 199, other varnishes, 30 pesetas, gross. Par. 200, mineral colors in powder or in lumps, and those prepared with water, 7.50 pesetas, gross. Par. 201, colors prepared with oils, varnish, glue, or any other substance, liquid, in paste, or solid, 25 pesetas, gross.

Under Par. 204, colors derived from coal tar and other artificial colors in powder or crystals pay 1.10 pesetas per kilo, net; and under Par. 205, colors in paste or liquid pay $\frac{1}{2}$ peseta per kilo, net.

Products with an Alcohol Base.

In addition, products with an alcohol base are subject to an extra duty of 25 pesetas per hectoliter (26.4 gallons), regardless of the proportion of alcohol. Pars. 200 and 201 relate to colors composed of a metallic base, which when used are mixed with oil or turpentine and are generally insoluble in water, alcohol, or ether, seldom crystallized, and almost always in powder or lump form, such as white lead, chrome yellow, vermilion, Prussian and cobalt blue, English and parrot green.

British firms engaged in this line give very liberal credits, and American manufacturers who desire to enter the market would have to be prepared to grant from 60 to 90 days credit with 2 per cent discount for cash.

Some British firms have agencies in Spain, and from time to time traveling men are sent out through the Provinces. British manufacturers continue to sell their paints in Malaga c. i. f. in spite of the fluctuation of ocean freights. The rates from America are higher than those from European ports, and American manufacturers should carefully study this phase of the subject.

All correspondence, color charts, advertising matter, etc., will have to be in the Spanish language to be of service. Price quotations in pesetas interest local dealers much more than dollar prices. The relative value of the dollar is not known by the majority of Spanish merchants, and it is doubtful if some of the dealers would take the trouble to ascertain the Spanish equivalent of the American dollar.

[A list of dealers in paint and varnish at Malaga may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district offices. Samples of the bristles used for paint brushes in Spain may also be inspected at those offices. Refer to file No. 92941.]

MEXICO.

[Consul William W. Canada, Vera Cruz.]

In the Vera Cruz consular district most of the paints at present come from the United States. The buildings are painted in light colors, often on walls coated with plaster, and because of the effect of heat, winds, and rains they have frequently to be repainted, sometimes upon orders received from the city government.

Colors in powder or crystals, according to tariff No. 537, pay an import duty of 10 centavos per gross kilo (about 2.3 cents United States currency per pound at the American Treasury Department valuation of the peso), while prepared colors, according to Tariff No. 538, pay 18 centavos per gross kilo (about 4 cents United States currency per pound). Varnishes, according to Tariff No. 525, pay import duties of 30 centavos per legal kilo (6.8 cents per pound).

Shipments from New York may be made by the Ward Line and the *Compañía Trasatlántica Española*, and from New Orleans by the Wolvin Line, the *Compañía Mexicana de Navegación*, and the Kerr Steamship Line.

Names of merchants who retail paints, varnishes, etc., are forwarded. All have been in business for a number of years. Spanish is preferred for correspondence.

The Vera Cruz Chamber of Commerce (*Cámara Nacional de Comercio de Vera Cruz*) keeps catalogues on file for the benefit of its members.

[The list of dealers in and possible importers of paints, varnishes, etc., mentioned in this report may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 90753.]

[Vice Consul William P. Blocker, Piedras Negras, Aug. 1.]

Several American Brands on the Market.

Several American brands of paint are now sold by dealers in the Piedras Negras district. No other foreign paints are sold here, largely as the result of the quick delivery of the American products, and the local decision that those from the United States are just as durable, if not better than any others.

The paint trade has not been very lucrative in the past four years, on account of disturbed conditions, and sufficient time has not elapsed for a revival in that industry, but considerable quantities are now sold in the immediate vicinity of Piedras Negras, and the demand is likely to increase as conditions become more settled.

[A list of dealers in and possible importers of paints in the Piedras Negras consular district may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 91704.]

COSTA RICA.

[Vice Consul Albert B. Pullen, Port Limon, Aug. 10.]

The demand for paints, varnishes, etc., in the Port Limon district is limited, as few improvements have been made in the past few years, and construction work has been practically at a standstill. The approximate quantities of paints, etc., imported at Port Limon during the past year were: From England, 1,000 pounds of mixed paints and 4,000 pounds of zinc in oil; from the United States, mixed paints, 1,500 pounds; zinc in oil, 1,500; white lead in oil, 6,000; red lead in

oil, 300; red and yellow ocher, 2,000; floor wax, 2,200; red roofing paints, 100 gallons; varnishes, 150 gallons.

The customs duty on all varnishes, etc., is \$0.09 per pound, gross weight. The customs duties on paints, per pound, are: Ordinary paint, powdered mineral earths, \$0.04; fine paints, powder and paste, \$0.20; linseed oil and other natural oils, \$0.04.

[A list of dealers in and importers of paints and varnishes at Port Limon may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 92012.]

CHOSEN.

[Vice Consul Raymond S. Curtice, Seoul, Aug. 6.]

By far the larger portion of the imports of paints and accessories at Seoul now comes from Japan, with Great Britain and the United States as the leading competitors of that country. The imports of paints, varnish, and dyestuffs, with countries of origin, during 1916 were: From Japan, \$80,232; from Great Britain, \$19,573; from the United States, \$76,414; from other countries, \$37,513; total, \$213,732. Of the total amount, 48,231 pounds, valued at \$9,824, represented imports of varnish.

[A list of possible agents in Chosen for American manufacturers of paint may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 92224.]

SEPTEMBER SALE OF CHILEAN NITRATE LANDS.

[Consul General L. J. Keena, Valparaiso, Sept. 12.]

La Nacion, of Santiago, in its edition of September 11, 1917, announces the results of the Government auction of nitrate lands held in that city on September 10. A list of the oficians offered for sale, the names of the purchasers, the nitrate contents of the deposits in Spanish quintals of 101.4 pounds, the value set upon them by the Government, and the amounts paid by the purchasers (both sums stated in Chilean gold pesos of 18d., or 36.5 cents U. S. currency) is given below:

Oficina.	Purchaser.	Nitrate content.	Government valuation.	Amount paid by purchaser.
		<i>Quinta.s.</i>	<i>Pesos.</i>	<i>Pesos.</i>
San Juan de Soledad, A, B	Cia. del Salar del Carmen....	3,293,950	943,647	1,680,647
Alianza, East, West.....	Compañia Alianza.....	5,473,700	1,235,110	3,150,110
Santa Emma.....	Juan Sargo.....	3,439,987	859,997	2,450,997
Nueva Soledad.....	Ramon Nieto.....	5,796,782	1,159,997	1,790,357
Pan de Azucar, C, D.....	Compañia Chinchilla.....	4,049,112	910,356	1,910,357
Pintados.....	Compañia Aurora.....	916,352	227,588	560,588
Barrochea.....	Juan Sargo.....	3,480,012	696,002	1,010,002
La Granja.....	R. Astoreca.....	1,408,063	352,016	1,210,016
Santa Laura de Wendell.....	Compañia Cocarelli.....	2,935,718	587,144	760,144

MOTOR CARS IN NEW ZEALAND.

[Consul General Alfred A. Winslow, Auckland, Sept. 10.]

During the last three years 12,380 motor cars have been imported into New Zealand, of which only 1,486 were classed as pleasure cars, the others being for general utility purposes. It is stated that the cost of the motor cars imported during the three years averaged \$768.90 each.

NECESSITY OF STRICT ATTENTION TO FOREIGN REQUIREMENTS.

American consular officers engaged in trade-promotion work abroad often find that their efforts do not bring the desired results because of the failure of business men in this country to confine their attention to the specific requirements of the prospective purchaser. Reports by United States representatives indicate the futility of furnishing foreign merchants with indiscriminate offers of service that have little relation to their actual wants. Such a policy may possibly be regarded as an evidence of energy and vigilance in the cultivation of foreign markets, but its effect is frequently the reverse of that intended. Injudicious zeal and hasty, ill-considered correspondence are likely to retard rather than promote the establishment of trade relations.

An instance of this kind is reported by Consul General Alfred A. Winslow, stationed at Auckland, New Zealand. A "trade opportunity" had been sent in relative to certain equipment, and this was published in *COMMERCE REPORTS*. The information furnished in connection with this "opportunity" was very specific in respect to the exact requirements of the New Zealand inquirer. The latter, to use his own words, "was inundated with literature of every description," yet he did not get the specific information for which he had asked. As a whole, communications were vague and irrelevant.

This definite opportunity for American trade was lost and, moreover, a bad impression was created in the mind of the New Zealand buyer, who had stated precisely what he desired and who had a right to expect exact and definite information in answer to his inquiry. American business men have often emphasized the need of detailed information for all trade opportunities; and they should appreciate that when a foreign merchant asks definitely for some one thing he can not and will not be satisfied with a letter offering anything else.

NEW ZEALAND POSTAL BUSINESS.

(Consul General Alfred A. Winslow, Auckland, Sept. 10.)

The report of the Post and Telegraph Department of New Zealand for the year ended March 31, 1917, shows receipts amounting to \$8,805,041—and this for a population of about 1,200,000. Letters, post cards, and other articles delivered in the Dominion numbered 172,668,262, as compared with 173,149,509 in 1915-16. During the year the letters handled by the dead letter office numbered 630,014, as compared with 596,360. The savings bank side of the business showed an increase of \$12,745,305 over the previous year, which then had a balance of \$124,598,017.

OFFICES OF THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE.

DISTRICT OFFICES.

NEW YORK: 734 Customhouse.
BOSTON: 1801 Customhouse.
CHICAGO: 504 Federal Building.
ST. LOUIS: 402 Third National Bank Building.
NEW ORLEANS: 1020 Hibernia Bank Building.
SAN FRANCISCO: 807 Customhouse.
SEATTLE: 848 Henry Building.

COOPERATIVE OFFICES.

CLEVELAND: Chamber of Commerce.
CINCINNATI: Chamber of Commerce.
CINCINNATI: General Freight Agent, Southern Railway, 96 Ingalls Building.
LOS ANGELES: Chamber of Commerce.
PHILADELPHIA: Chamber of Commerce.
CHATTANOOGA: South American Agent, Southern Railway System.
PORTLAND, OREG.: Chamber of Commerce.
DAYTON: Greater Dayton Association.

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the Bureau and its district and cooperative offices. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and state opportunity number. The Bureau does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases. Symbols: * Reported by American consular officers; † Reported by commercial attaches and commercial agents; ‡ Direct inquiries received by the Bureau.

In considering the following "opportunities" special regard should be had to the laws and regulations governing export licenses and trading with the enemy.

Canned goods-----	25590, 25596	Lanterns-----	25594
Cement-----	25596	Lenther, imitation-----	25595
Cups, iron-----	25594	Lighters, mechanical-----	25591
Dry goods-----	25590	Machinery-----	25595
Electrical goods-----	25596	Metals-----	25596
Fruits, dried-----	25596	Petroleum-----	25596
General merchandise-----	25590	Post cards-----	25591
Glassware-----	25596	Ropes, wire-----	25592
Groceries-----	25590	Shoes-----	25596
Hardware-----	25596	Steel-----	25596
Hoes-----	25594	Tobacco-----	25593

25590.*—A man in New Zealand desires to purchase and secure an agency for the sale of groceries, canned goods, dry goods, and merchandise in general. Quotations may be made f. o. b. steamer port of shipment. Payment will be made by sight draft or as may be arranged. Liberal terms as possible should be granted. Cost of packing should be included in quotations, if possible. References.

25591.†—A man in Peru desires to have post cards made from negatives in his possession. The price is to be based on an order for 1,000 copies each from 50 different negatives. Quotations should be made both for black and colors. He also wishes to purchase mechanical lighters used as substitutes for matches. Correspondence should be in Spanish or French. He desires to have goods shipped to local bank, which will deliver same to him upon payment. Reference.

25592.*—The manager of a coal mine in Russia wishes to purchase steel wire ropes or cables for use in coal mines. As these ropes are urgently needed offers should be cabled, if possible. Complete specifications may be obtained from the Bureau or its district offices.

25593.*—A firm in France wishes to buy large quantities of leaf tobacco. Quotations should be made f. o. b. Atlantic port. Payment will be made by cash against documents or confirmed bank credit in New York. Correspondence may be in English. References.

25594.*—A firm in British East Africa is in the market for hoes with 5½-inch blade, and weighing about 2½ pounds; iron cups, well flinned, 4 inches high, 2½ inches diameter at bottom, and 3 inches diameter at top, for use on rubber trees; heart-shaped hoes about 7 by 6 inches, with straight shank to run into a wooden handle; the blade and shank to be of one piece and of good steel; lawn mowers; ordinary hand lanterns, with tubular frames; and short-handled spades and shovels. Payment will be made by sight draft with bill of lading attached. Quotations should be in English sterling. Goods should be packed in extra strong crates or cases with all bright parts protected with waterproof wrapping. Correspondence may be in English. Reference.

25595.*—A company in South Africa wishes to purchase and secure an agency for the sale of machinery, mixers, chip machines, dies, moulds, etc., for manufacturing toilet soaps. It also is in the market for imitation leather for upholstery. Quotations should be made f. o. b. New York. Payment will be made through New York export house. Correspondence may be in English. References.

25596.*—An exclusive agency is desired by a firm in France for the sale of all kinds of hardware, metals, steel, cement, glassware, electrical goods, canned goods, dried fruits, shoes, and petroleum. Quotations should be made f. o. b. New York. Payment will be made by cash in 30 days. It will also consider agencies for other lines. Correspondence may be in English. Samples should be submitted wherever possible, as well as catalogues in French with prices stated in equivalents in French currency, and giving weights and measures in the metric system. References.

OCT 19 1917 **COMMERCE REPORTS**

PRINCETON, N. J.

DAILY CONSULAR AND TRADE REPORTS

ISSUED DAILY BY THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

For sale by the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C., at \$2.50 per year

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1917

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FINAL FORECAST OF INDIA'S 1916-17 WHEAT CROP.

The final official forecast of the area sown to wheat for the 1916-17 season, based on revised returns of acreage and outturn received from districts comprising 98.5 per cent of the total wheat area in India, places the acreage under this grain at 32,940,000, as against 30,320,000 acres a year ago, an increase of nearly 9 per cent. The total yield is estimated at 10,158,000 tons (47,404,000 quarters of 480 pounds each) as against 8,652,000 tons (40,376,000 quarters) in 1915-16, or an increase of 17 per cent.

EFFECT OF THE WAR ON THE DUTCH MERCHANT FLEET.

[Consul General Soren Listoe, Rotterdam, Sept. 6.]

The effects of the war on the Dutch merchant fleet were more noticeable during 1916 than at any time since the beginning of hostilities. The total result of the year 1914 was favorable, in regard to tonnage, because an increase of 80,000 tons was recorded at the end of the year, due to the number of ships built or purchased. The adverse effects of the war were more evident in the year 1915. Although 73,000 tons of new cargo space were added to the register, 47,000 tons of space were sold to foreign purchasers. The sales, combined with the losses at sea, resulted in an increase of only 13,328 tons during 1915. The year 1916 was the first in which the tonnage of the Dutch mercantile fleet decreased. The additions to the fleet amounted to only 65,000 tons, while 77,000 tons had to be written off for various reasons.

The ship-export law was put into force to prevent the sale of ships to foreign countries unless permission was granted by the Government. The year 1915 was the first when an unusual demand for ships became manifest, and during the year many ships were sold abroad, particularly to Norway, at very high prices. Even the oldest vessels met with a ready sale. From sales alone 34 Dutch ships, with a total tonnage of 46,000, left the country. Even if no sales had

been made during the year to foreign purchasers, the tonnage would not have increased more than 60,000, which is 10,000 to 20,000 tons less than the normal increase of the fleet in recent years. By the sales and changes that took place during 1915 many shipowners improved their financial condition and at the same time succeeded in replacing old ships by those of newer construction.

Decline in Dutch Shipping—Losses Due to Submarine Activities.

The large decline of shipping at most Dutch ports can be attributed to the war. The Amsterdam port statistics show a steady decrease in the number of arrivals. The number of ships arriving at the port of Rotterdam showed a gain in 1915 but a decrease in 1916. Another feature that has been noticed as the war progressed is that the size of the ships entering the various ports of Holland is smaller than the average in normal times. The large decline of traffic on the New Waterway, which in normal times amounts to about 220 ships a week, is due to the decreased export trade from the port of Rotterdam.

Since the ruthless submarine warfare was inaugurated, on February 1, 1917, the losses suffered by the Dutch merchant fleet have been large. Although a number of new ships have been completed in the Dutch shipbuilding yards this year, and several more will be finished before the end of the year, the outlook as affecting the tonnage of the mercantile fleet is not favorable. The prospect is that the year 1917 will show another decrease in merchant tonnage, especially as many deliveries are now being delayed because of the lack of raw material.

NEW MARKETS FOR JAPANESE GOODS.

[Chamber of Commerce Journal, Yokohama, Aug., 1917.]

The Japanese Government Commercial Museum recently published a list showing the increase of Japanese exports since the war began. New trade is claimed as follows:

Articles exported.	Former markets.	New markets.
Woolen cloth.....	China.....	Asiatic Russia.
Cotton blankets.....	Asia.....	South Africa and Australia.
Cotton hosiery.....	do.....	England, Holland, Russia, South Africa, and Australia.
Gloves.....		England, China, and Russia.
Stockings.....	Kwantung and Hongkong.....	China, England, and Russia.
Imitation Panama hats.....	China and Hongkong.....	England, China, and Australia.
Bracelets.....	British India.....	
Shell buttons.....	All markets.....	
Printing paper.....	China.....	England, East Indies, Australia, and Manila.
Cardboards.....	Asia.....	
Porcelain.....	China, England, and America.	Australia.
Glass.....	China, Hongkong, and Straits Settlements.	Other Asiatic countries.
Toys.....	British India, Singapore, and East Indies.	England, America, and Canada.

Exports of some materials, such as woolen cloth and serges, gloves, etc., will probably decline, but it is expected that other articles, especially bracelets and printing paper will continue to gain. Japanese beer, pongee, mineral waters, beans, and sugar have also gained an oversea trade.

Buy a United States Government Bond of the Second Liberty Loan.

VEGETABLE-WAX INDUSTRY OF JAPAN.

[Chamber of Commerce Journal, Yokohama.]

An industry of Japan which has made remarkable progress in recent years is that concerned with the extraction of vegetable wax, which is coming into greater demand on foreign markets. The output has been gradually increasing, and now stands in the neighborhood of 1,700,000 yen, or about \$850,000 per year. The work of extraction is being organized on a larger scale.

The principal regions of production are in the Island of Kyushu, especially around the city of Fukuoka, which accounts for nearly half of the total output. The product is used abroad principally in the manufacture of polishes, pomade and soaps, and in dressing leather.

Most of this vegetable wax is derived from the fruit kernels of a tree peculiar to Japan, which begins to fruit at about 15 years, and sometimes bears heavily when it is over 100 years old. It reaches a height of 20 to 25 feet, and produces from 30 to 150 pounds of nuts annually. The best wax is made from nuts that have been kept over the winter, and generally speaking, the quality of the product improves with the age of the nut. The wax is extracted by crushing and steaming the nuts, and then subjecting the mass to pressure. A second wax is secured by repressing. One workman can handle about 150 pounds of raw mass in a day, and this produces about 16 pounds of wax.

Traditional Refining Process.

The crude wax, which solidifies at 50 degrees, is cast into round moulds of a little more than a pound each. It is next refined, the process used being a traditional one and peculiar to Japan. It is mixed with wood or charcoal, ash and water, thoroughly boiled, and dropped into cold water, so as to form what are called wax flowers. These are taken out and exposed to the sun for about 20 days, when the process of boiling, making the flowers, and sunning is repeated. The wax is then boiled a third time, and the best quality taken off the top while it is in a molten condition. Recently improved methods have begun to come into use, and the crude wax is treated with an alkaline solution.

The most important foreign consumers of this product are the United States, Great Britain, France, and Hongkong, followed by various other countries of the Orient and Europe.

NEW FEEDSTUFF FOR CATTLE.

[Commercial Attaché Erwin W. Thompson, The Hague, Netherlands.]

Dr. van Calcar, a Professor of Bacteriology at the Leiden University, is reported to have invented a new feedstuff, and also a machine which will produce 20 tons of this feedstuff per day. Albumen and fat are obtained from slaughterhouses and fishing centers; fecula is obtained from potato and fruit refuse; and the necessary salt may be derived from refuse of vegetables. The fodder is mixed in such a fashion as to contain a sufficient percentage of fat, albumen, and carbohydrates, with an admixture of straw, heather, reeds, and mussels. The new fodder is not recommended as feed for milk cows as it gives a peculiar taste to the milk.

PORT ELIZABETH PRODUCE MARKET.

[Consul E. A. Wakefield, Port Elizabeth, South Africa, Aug. 24.]

The Port Elizabeth produce market is fairly steady, with no distinguishing features. The tone of the wool market is firm, but there is an uncertain feeling with regard to the taking over of the wool clip by the Imperial Government at a stated price. This price would be at a 50 or 60 per cent advance over the prices which were obtained in 1914. Still the market continues fairly strong for all descriptions, particularly good, dry snow-whites, which sell readily at top prices. Transactions in grease wools have been small—mainly because the supplies are very limited. The season's wool supplies are practically all in the local market now, and the new season will open the last of September or early in October. The following prices are quoted at the local produce exchange:

Grade.	Price per pound.	Grade.	Price per pound.
Snow whites:		Karoo—Continued.	
Superior.....	\$0.84-\$1.00	Medium.....	\$0.24-\$0.28
Medium.....	.72- .80	Heavy and dirty.....	.18- .22
Faulty.....	.60- .70	Grease:	
Grease:		Grass, short, light, and free..	.24- .30
12 months grass, special clips..	.36- .40	Karoo, short, light, and free..	.22- .28
Super clips.....	.30- .36	Short, heavy, seedy.....	.14- .20
Average long.....	.28- .30	Crossbred white.....	.20- .28
Karoo:		Coarse and colored.....	.14- .20
12 months, special.....	.32- .34		
Average.....	.28- .29		

Mohair—Hides and Skins.

The mohair market remains quiet, and there seems to be no demand for the better grades. Mixed and low qualities are fairly firm at good prices. The prevailing prices are:

Grade.	Price per pound.	Grade.	Price per pound.
Summer kids:		Winter kids:	
Best.....	\$0.44-\$0.48	Best mohair.....	\$0.34-\$0.36
Average.....	.30- .36	Winter, good.....	0.32- 0.34
Summer warts:		Mixed, good.....	0.28- 0.32
Best.....	.42- .43	Inferior.....	0.20- 0.24
Average.....	.38- .39	Locks.....	0.12- 0.19
Short.....	.34-		

The hide and skin market is unchanged as to values, but the demand is less pronounced. The prevailing prices for skins, per pound, are: Sheep—sound \$0.24 to \$0.25, damaged \$0.20 to \$0.21; goat—under 3½ pounds \$0.42, 3½ pounds and over \$0.38; Angora—up to 5 pounds \$0.20 to \$0.20½, 5 pounds and over \$0.18, shorn \$0.16, damaged \$0.14. Cape sheep are quoted at \$0.95 to \$1.50 apiece; the coarse-wooled ones, \$0.20 to \$0.20½. As to hides, sound sundried are priced \$0.28 to \$0.29 and damaged at \$0.26; sound, dry salted, at \$0.26 to \$0.27 and damaged at \$0.24.

Ostrich-Feather Situation.

For the last two weeks the feather market has shown signs of renewed life and activity. Nevertheless, after careful inquiry, it does not appear that these increased sales are based upon a correspond-

ingly increased demand. As a matter of fact, while the sales during this week were continued into the second day for the first time in many months, the experiment was not a success. Fair to medium grade feathers seem to be in demand. No superprimes are offered, and very low-grade feathers are not wanted. Sales for Monday, August 13, aggregated 12,668 pounds, selling for \$33,490; on August 20 the weight sold totaled 9,085 pounds and the sum realized \$25,335. The prevailing prices for sorted parcels are:

Grade.	Price per pound.	Grade.	Price per pound.
Whites:		Floss, black or drab.....	\$0.75-\$2.90
No. 1.....	\$2.40-\$15.00	Drabs:	
No. 2.....	10.00-11.25	Long.....	2.60-4.50
No. 3.....	7.40-8.60	Medium.....	2.30-2.40
Stalky.....	3.75-6.10	Short.....	.75-1.25
Feminas:		Tails:	
Light.....	10.00-11.25	White.....	3.00-4.50
Dark.....	8.60-9.80	B. B.....	1.20-1.75
Grey.....	7.30-8.60	Light and colored.....	1.20-3.65
Stalky.....	3.10-4.85	Dark.....	1.20-1.75
Byocks, long and short.....	7.50-10.00	Spadonas:	
Blacks:		Light.....	3.00-4.90
Long.....	4.85-6.10	Chicks.....	.25-1.00
Medium.....	2.45-3.65	Dark.....	1.25-2.45
Short.....	1.25-1.70	Colored.....	1.75-3.65

Unsorted parcels are now placed on the market quite frequently and naturally are quoted at lower prices.

SPECIAL REPORTS COMPILED BY THE BUREAU.

The following special reports have recently been compiled in the Research Division of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce. They may be examined by making application therefor to the Bureau. Annual average export prices of domestic cotton cloths, 1913-1917; average wholesale prices of cotton cloths during the last week of July, 1913-1917; average wholesale prices of cotton cloth for the first 37 weeks of 1916 and 1917; British fiat money; coal mining in Germany; exports of arc lamps and cases, electric lamps, etc., from Germany and from Austria, 1913; exports of domestic confectionery from the United Kingdom and France to specified countries, 1912-1916; imports of motor cars and parts thereof into specified countries, 1913-1916; imports of wood pulp into Argentina, 1912-1916; increased cost of cotton fabrics; Japanese bills renewal and Russian financial outlook; maximum rates for coal shipped for domestic use (United Kingdom) 1909.

INCREASED PACIFIC FREIGHT ON RUBBER TO UNITED STATES.

[Consul Harry Campbell, Straits Settlements, Aug. 4.]

Local steamship agents advise that the freight rate on rubber from the ports of Singapore and Penang, Straits Settlements, to San Francisco, Seattle, and Vancouver, has been increased to \$95 a ton, an increase of \$25 per ton. The rate before the war was \$24. Although tonnage to London is becoming considerably restricted, there appears to be as yet plenty of available tonnage to the Pacific ports of the United States and Canada.

EXPORTS OF AUTOMOBILES FROM UNITED STATES.

Canada was the principal foreign market for American passenger motor cars during the fiscal year ended June 30, 1917, the number shipped to that country being 14,421, valued at \$11,143,740. The United Kingdom and France led in the purchases of commercial motor cars, the shipments to those countries being: United Kingdom, 6,525 cars, valued at \$17,061,105; France, 4,264 cars, valued at \$13,854,903. The following table shows the number and value of both commercial and passenger automobiles shipped from the United States to each country during the fiscal year ended June 30, 1917:

Countries.	Commercial automob-iles.		Passenger automob-iles.	
	Number.	Values.	Number.	Values.
EUROPE.				
Azores and Madeira.....			1	\$700
Denmark.....	58	\$81,414	1,215	962,798
France.....	4,264	13,854,903	1,367	836,557
Gibraltar.....			9	11,518
Greece.....	3	2,000	78	79,913
Iceland.....			11	5,134
Italy.....	65	159,775	196	126,432
Netherlands.....	36	55,305	485	612,495
Norway.....	162	265,741	922	944,002
Portugal.....	21	45,087	283	271,421
Russia, European.....	1,733	5,428,979	780	943,008
Spain.....	29	55,808	1,125	1,195,867
Sweden.....	6	10,879	390	360,554
Switzerland.....			9	9,248
United Kingdom:				
England.....	6,525	17,061,105	1,268	1,444,346
Scotland.....			4	2,991
NORTH AMERICA.				
British Honduras.....			12	5,774
Canada.....	636	945,047	14,421	11,143,740
Costa Rica.....	1	900	37	23,125
Guatemala.....	4	4,323	35	36,174
Honduras.....	4	4,094	42	24,804
Nicaragua.....			5	2,129
Panama.....	75	97,970	356	216,711
Salvador.....	1	868	75	62,314
Mexico.....	218	198,151	2,807	1,642,011
Newfoundland.....	1	2,675	48	38,910
West Indies:				
British.....	10	16,013	784	457,632
Cuba.....	397	722,519	3,829	2,545,071
Danish.....			18	9,114
Dutch.....	2	2,085	32	19,191
French.....	7	13,305	293	164,980
Haiti.....			29	13,780
Dominican Republic.....	22	23,640	191	96,173
SOUTH AMERICA.				
Argentina.....	141	116,255	3,924	2,334,001
Bolivia.....	20	48,590	141	100,151
Brazil.....	14	8,300	873	523,383
Chile.....	69	100,696	2,587	1,821,842
Colombia.....	2	4,998	173	118,937
Ecuador.....	1	2,050	137	106,478
Guianas:				
British.....	1	1,529	146	105,989
Dutch.....			23	11,797
French.....			1	498
Paraguay.....			40	20,192
Peru.....	25	48,776	400	295,558
Uruguay.....	4	10,437	1,165	612,838
Venezuela.....	14	28,502	542	327,607
ASIA.				
Aden.....			10	7,968
China.....	9	14,287	509	383,371
French China.....			20	9,326
Japanese China.....			33	17,796

Countries.	Commercial automob- iles.		Passenger automob- iles.	
	Number.	Values.	Number.	Values.
ASIA—continued.				
Chosen (Korea).....			5	\$3,832
British India.....	126	\$205,023	3,603	2,644,085
Straits Settlements.....	57	61,881	855	585,820
Other British East Indies.....	26	38,970	110	80,033
Dutch East Indies.....	108	137,609	3,206	2,642,330
French East Indies.....			18	17,967
Hongkong.....			38	35,255
Japan.....	70	59,198	652	481,748
Russia, Asiatic.....	515	1,662,144	1,072	1,324,080
Siam.....	8	6,700	31	15,915
Turkey, Asiatic.....	2	1,143		
OCEANIA.				
Australia.....	194	237,150	5,055	3,792,571
New Zealand.....	75	119,833	3,554	2,558,118
Other British Oceania.....	1	1,688	19	11,062
French Oceania.....	2	2,750	22	12,330
German Oceania.....	3	2,377	12	5,847
Philippine Islands.....	53	57,457	1,019	696,731
AFRICA.				
British West Africa.....	115	124,574	240	144,838
British South Africa.....	34	82,957	3,423	2,378,380
British East Africa.....			94	55,681
Canary Islands.....	1	575	31	24,525
French Africa.....			41	13,315
Italian Africa.....			3	1,200
Liberia.....			1	975
Madagascar.....			1	808
Morocco.....			87	39,670
Portuguese Africa.....	1	2,500	7	5,429
Egypt.....	4	9,624	38	22,113
Total foreign countries.....	15,977	42,343,502	64,808	48,612,632
GRAND DIVISIONS.				
Europe.....	12,902	37,021,996	8,133	7,776,969
North America.....	1,380	2,032,924	22,714	16,491,394
South America.....	291	460,133	10,152	6,341,171
Asia.....	921	2,186,955	10,162	8,249,505
Oceania.....	328	421,264	9,681	7,066,669
Africa.....	155	220,230	3,966	2,686,934

In addition, there were shipped to Alaska 152 automobiles, valued at \$141,128; Hawaii, 1,891, value \$1,802,413; and Porto Rico, 1,289, value, \$1,181,353 (the class of cars not stated).

ITALIAN REQUISITION OF GRANA REGGIANO CHEESE.

[Vice Consul Quincy F. Roberts, Genoa, Sept. 12.]

Il Sole, published at Milan September 9, 1917, contains a decree of the Commissary General for supply and consumption of food, dated September 7, ordering that all "grana reggiano" (Parmesan) cheese which has been produced within the current year and shall be produced up to December 31 next in the Provinces of Mantua, Modena, Parma, Piacenza, Reggio Emilio, Cremona, and Bologna shall be considered as requisitioned and put at the disposal of the military authorities. Beginning with the 10th day of September, exports of such cheese from the Provinces mentioned are prohibited.

Holders of such cheese in those Provinces were required to declare to the administration of the Military Commissariat of Milan the sales already effected at the date of the decree, together with all information necessary for tracing the lots sold.

RUBBER PRODUCTION IN BRITISH MALAYA.

[Consul General Edwin N. Gunsaulus, Singapore, Straits Settlements.]

The Malay Peninsula has the distinction of being the largest rubber-producing and rubber-exporting country in the world. Its rapid advance in this particular industry can not be said to be the result of sudden development, but has been a gradual process.

Ten years ago the production of rubber in the Malay Peninsula was very small, as compared with that of Brazil, which was then the principal source of supply. Its advent to first place as a rubber-producing country is due to its favorable climatic and soil conditions for plantation growth, with the result that the rubber industry now stands first in importance, greatly exceeding in point of output value that of tin production, which previously held first place in the Malay Peninsula and which, in spite of its relegation to a secondary position as a local industry, still maintains its clear lead in relation to the world's supply of this metal.

World's Production of Rubber.

The following figures, published in the Malayan Tin and Rubber Journal, show the world's production as represented by exports of raw rubber from the East, Brazil, and other countries for the years 1906-1916.

Years.	East.	Brazil.	Other countries.	Total.	Years.	East.	Brazil.	Other countries.	Total.
	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>		<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>
1906.....	531	38,000	29,500	68,031	1912.....	28,518	42,110	28,000	98,628
1907.....	1,133	38,000	30,000	69,133	1913.....	47,392	33,370	21,500	108,172
1908.....	2,010	35,000	24,500	65,510	1914.....	71,959	37,000	12,000	120,959
1909.....	3,997	42,000	24,000	69,997	1915.....	105,205	35,350	12,000	153,555
1910.....	7,521	40,800	21,500	69,821	1916.....	150,000	35,000	13,000	198,000
1911.....	12,973	37,730	23,000	74,703					

The total amount of rubber produced in the Malay Peninsula in 1916, as shown by the exports from the principal ports of the Straits Settlements and transshipments, not included in exports, is just below 100,000 tons, the exact figures being 99,063 tons.

Production of Rubber in Malay Peninsula.

The following table gives the annual production of rubber in the Malay Peninsula (including the Straits Settlements) since 1906:

Year.	Tons.	Year.	Tons.
1906.....	430	1912.....	20,327
1907.....	887	1913.....	23,641
1908.....	1,609	1914.....	47,005
1909.....	3,340	1915.....	70,214
1910.....	6,594	1916.....	99,063
1911.....	10,182		

The rubber output by States of British Malaya for the years 1914, 1915, and 1916, is given below:

States.	1914	1915	1916	States.	1914	1915	1916
	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>		<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>
Selangor.....	14,015	19,120	26,163	Kedah.....	1,030	1,889	3,314
Perak.....	11,042	16,663	23,421	Kelantan.....	307	536	1,010
Johore.....	5,358	9,167	14,004	Pahang.....	362	564	1,001
Malacca.....	6,766	11,022	12,388	Singapore.....	422	433	688
Negri Sembilan.....	5,278	8,117	12,179	Trengganu.....			20
Penang and Province Wellesley.....	2,425	2,643	4,935				

The United States Leads in Purchases.

According to shipping statistics, the four seaports of the Peninsula divided the exports of rubber for 1916 as follows:

Destination.	Shipments from—				
	Singapore.	Penang.	Malacca.	Swettenham.	Total.
United Kingdom.....	Tons. 11,374	Tons. 11,504	Tons. 2,511	Tons. 14,523	Tons. 39,911
Continent of Europe (including Russia via Vladivostok).....	5,414	25			5,439
United States.....	35,812	5,035		1,099	42,546
Australia.....	144				144
Canada.....	598			7	600
Japan.....	2,059				2,059
Other countries.....	140	813		720	1,173
Total.....	55,535	16,877	2,511	16,948	91,872

Comparing the shipments with the production, it is found that at the end of 1916 the stocks in the Malay Peninsula had increased by nearly 10,000 tons over those of the previous year, caused by the scarcity of tonnage which prevailed throughout the year.

It is estimated that the production of crude rubber of the whole world for 1916 was approximately 200,000 tons, an increase of about 45,000 tons, or from 27 to 28 per cent over that of 1915, this rise being mainly due to the additional amount of plantation rubber produced in the East, which increased by nearly 42 per cent as compared with 1915. The estimated production of rubber for 1917 for all countries, according to a reliable authority, is in the neighborhood of 242,000 tons, of which 192,000 tons are apportioned to plantation, 37,000 tons to Brazil, and 13,000 tons to other kinds.

Of the 1916 production of approximately 200,000 tons, it is estimated that the United States took over 72 per cent, amounting roughly to 116,000 tons; and Great Britain imported 57,100 tons, a good deal of which was reexported. It is estimated that the value of the plantation rubber imported into the United States during the year was \$125,000,000, the greatest part of which was shipped from the Malay Peninsula.

The direct exports from Singapore and Penang to the United States for the past three years, as shown by the declared exports at the Singapore consulate general and the Penang consular agency, were as follows:

Years.	Singapore.		Penang.		Total.	
	Tons.	Value.	Tons.	Value.	Tons.	Value.
1914.....	3,616	\$5,747,040	440	\$49,536	4,056	\$5,796,576
1915.....	20,562	25,043,863	1,879	2,609,749	22,441	27,653,612
1916.....	41,219	51,322,061	4,424	5,645,857	45,643	56,967,918

Prices Show Large Fluctuations.

The year 1916 opened with prices at a very high level and culminated on January 6, 1916, when crêpe reached 4s. 3½d. (\$1.04) in London. Quotations fell no less than 17 pence (\$0.34) by January 31 and then rose in February to 3s. 9d. (\$0.91), due apparently to

short accounts in New York. Later the market price fell steadily with very little fluctuation from July to October. In November a strong demand for future delivery was experienced, creating a rise in prices immediately stimulated by speculators who were undoubtedly anticipating a recurrence of the phenomenal rise of the previous year.

The weekly rubber auctions of the Singapore Chamber of Commerce Rubber Association have rapidly grown in importance since their inauguration some years ago, as shown by the table below, which gives the quantities offered for sale and quantities actually sold at the auction.

Years.	Quantities offered.	Quantities sold.
	Tons.	Tons.
1912.....	599	532
1913.....	1,696	1,506
1914.....	3,685	2,666
1915.....	11,167	7,322
1916.....	24,699	16,659

The highest prices realized at these auctions during 1916 were as follows:

Grade.	Straits dollars, per picul. ^a	United States currency, per pound.	Grade.	Straits dollars, per picul. ^a	United States currency, per pound.
Sheet:			Crepe:		
Smoked—			Fine pale thin.....	\$210	\$0.89
Fine ribbed.....	\$203	\$0.86	Good pale thin.....	205	.87
Good ribbed.....	194	.83	Good pale blanket.....	197	.84
Fine plain.....	193	.82	Good brown blanket.....	192	.83
Good plain.....	189	.80	Fine brown.....	196	.84
Unsmoked—			Good brown.....	189	.80
Fine ribbed.....	190	.81	Good dark.....	179	.76
Good ribbed.....	167	.71	Burky.....	171	.73
Fine plain.....	190	.81	Scrap:		
Good plain.....	186	.79	Virgin and dressed.....	124	.53
			Loose.....	114	.49

^a 133½ pounds.

Rubber Acreage in Malaya.

According to Government figures available, which refer only to estates over 100 acres in extent, there was a total at the end of 1915 of 833,069 acres planted in rubber with a reserve of 917,185 acres. Of this total, 542,747 acres of rubber are represented by the Planters' Association of Malaya. Further grants of land were made during the year 1916, but the Government of the Federated Malay States later decided to discontinue the issue of land grants of more than 50 acres in extent, pending the return of labor, capital, and administrative conditions to normal. As a result of the large demand and high prices for rubber there has been a marked increase in prices of land adapted for rubber production in the Federated Malay States, and it is certain that planters are beginning to consider the possibilities of the vast tracts of jungle found upon the eastern side of the main range of the peninsula for plantation purposes.

A report of the International Association for Rubber Cultivation in the Netherlands Indies estimates the total area under rubber in

the islands of Sumatra and Java at 57,000 acres, these holdings being divided among English, Dutch, French, Belgian, and American companies and capitalists.

American Influence in the Industry.

A striking feature connected with the rubber industry in the Malay Peninsula and other parts of the Far East is the constantly increasing influence of the United States concerning both prices and increased production, a situation which must be given the fullest recognition and consideration. All leading American rubber manufacturers are directly represented in this market, with principal offices in Singapore, which is the natural outlet and sale center for the vast quantities of this commodity produced in the Malay Peninsula. Other United States rubber dealers and importers are also represented here, principally by prominent local firms. In addition, a considerable quantity of rubber is shipped direct to America on instructions from London, where the contracts are made.

The direct shipments to the United States from British Malaya, with the approximate percentage of total exports which they represent, were: 1912, 1,363 long tons, 6.6 per cent; 1913, 2,680 tons, 8.1 per cent; 1914, 5,270 tons, 11.4 per cent; 1915, 23,426 tons, 33.2 per cent; and 1916, 42,029 tons, 42.3 per cent. In 1917 the shipments to the United States from Singapore and Malacca to the end of May from Penang to April 30 and from Port Swettenham to June 21 totaled 24,591 tons, or 46.4 per cent of total exports.

Not only has there been an enormous increase in the purchases of crude rubber from the Malay Peninsula and the Dutch Indies by United States manufacturers during the past few years, but of late considerable American capital has been invested in land and rubber plantations, both in British Malaya and the Dutch Islands, especially in Sumatra. The approximate amount of capital now invested in rubber production alone in British Malaya is given at \$166,000,000, of which British capital represents \$160,000,000; United States, \$1,500,000; other, \$4,500,000.

Land Transfers and Taxes.

In the Federated Malay States land is alienated on application and title issued in perpetuity, subject to certain cultivation conditions and quitrents. On first-class agricultural land a premium of \$1.70 United States currency per acre and on second-class land \$1.14 must be paid. Survey and demarcation fees are additional.

Quitrents are annually for the first to the sixth year, \$0.57 per acre; sixth to the tenth, \$0.85; eleventh to the fifteenth, \$1.14; sixteenth to the twentieth, \$1.70; and twentieth and following years, \$2.27. Rents are subject to revision every 30 years. The last revision took effect January 1, 1915.

In addition there are export duties varying with the price of the commodity.

When the value of the highest grade rubber exceeds 2 shillings (\$0.49), the duty is $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent ad valorem, with gradual decreases to $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent when the selling price is a shilling and six pence (\$0.37). All grades are assessed at the value of the highest grade. In addition, the "War taxation amendment of 1916" imposes duties of $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent when the price does not exceed 2s./6p. (\$0.61) and of 5 per

cent when it is in excess of that figure. Exemption from this war tax is granted to all companies or individuals paying income tax in the United Kingdom.

Non-Federated States and Straits Settlements.

In Johore land rents are lower than in the Federated Malay States, reaching a maximum of \$1.42 per acre for the eighth and following years. Export duties are $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent ad valorem; the Government reserves the right to assess an additional $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent, but has never exercised it.

Land in Kedah is alienated at a premium of \$1.71 per acre, but there has been such a boom in land the past year that practically all large blocks are put up at auction and have been selling for as high as \$18 per acre.

Quitrent is \$0.57 per relog, equivalent to about \$0.74 per acre, subject to revision every 30 years, but such revision can not increase quitrent more than 50 per cent of the former rate.

Export duties are $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent ad valorem based on market prices in Penang.

There are no export duties on rubber from the Straits Settlements; companies and individuals pay income taxes. Malacca taxes every tree over 6 years old about \$0.04 per year. Land rents and general land policy are similar to those in the Federated Malay States. On Singapore Island a tax of 3 cents is levied on each tree tapped.

War Restrictions Handicap Trade.

Shipping and other obstacles due to the war have to a certain degree militated against the exports of rubber. The British Government also requires that permits be obtained before shipments of rubber can be made. Shipments are controlled in London by the Tin and Rubber Committee, through which a permit must be obtained. The result of these restrictions has been to stimulate rubber production and prices in Java and Samatra, where these requirements do not exist. It is probable that on this account some modification of the regulations may be made as a matter of protection to the rubber producers in British Malaya whose interests are affected.

AUCKLAND MUNICIPAL ELECTRIC PLANT.

[Consul General Alfred A. Winslow, Auckland, New Zealand, Sept. 10.]

According to a late report of the electrical engineer of the city of Auckland, the municipal electric plant showed a good increase during the year ended June 30, 1917. The number of units sold was 1,872,938, as compared with 1,601,292 in the fiscal year 1916, and receipts aggregated \$75,168, as compared with \$63,795. There was a gain of 276 customers.

The plant is now quite heavily overloaded, but owing to the difficulty in securing copper wire it is not expected that any material improvements can be made before June or July next.

Increase in Population of Alberta.

According to a recently published report of the Census and Statistics Office of Canada, the population of Alberta on June 1, 1916, was 496,525, as against 374,663 in 1911 and 185,412 in 1906.

MARKET FOR AMERICAN MATCHES IN MALTA.

[Consul Wilbur Koblinger, Valetta, Aug. 18.]

At present there is a great scarcity of all kinds of matches in Malta. Heretofore Sweden has furnished most of the matches used here, but recently lack of ocean transportation has cut off this supply, and the island is entirely dependent upon England and Italy for its matches. As both of these countries have difficulty in meeting their domestic demand, Malta is experiencing a match famine. American manufacturers would have no difficulty in selling in this market, provided transportation could be obtained.

The extent of Malta's purchases of foreign matches is shown in the following table, which gives the country of origin and the value of the matches imported in the fiscal years 1914-15, 1915-16, and 1916-17:

Imported from—	1914-15	1915-16	1916-17
Austria-Hungary.....	\$2,520		
Belgium.....	4,754		
France.....		\$87	
Germany.....	2,043		
Gibraltar.....		4,759	
Holland.....	2,593	13,154	\$2,812
Italy.....	13,767	33,349	5,450
Norway.....			642
Sweden.....	1,348	28,415	47,005
United Kingdom.....	3,654	21,510	1,041
Total.....	30,679	101,314	56,950

Requests have lately been received at the Valetta consulate for samples of American matches, to enable the inquirers to place orders direct with the manufacturers. The trade in this line is generally conducted through commission merchants. I suggest that, if possible, manufacturers of matches supply samples to this consulate. A list of firms handling matches is transmitted herewith [and may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district and cooperative offices upon referring to file No. 92779].

There is no duty on matches in Malta.

FRENCH TRADE AFTER THE WAR.

Already some of the best minds in France are working on the intensive economic struggle that must take the place of the present war. A review of a recent book by Deputy Victor Boret, "La Bataille Economique de Demain" (The Economic Struggle of To-morrow), is published in the August 17 issue of the *L'Economiste Française* (Paris). This book dwells on France's need for present preparation for the after-the-war economic contest and the advisability of studying and putting into effect various industrial reforms. These include the reorganization of commercial courses, the modification of rules governing the appointment of consular officials, changed methods in economic legislation, extension of credit facilities, the development of industrial production, and the establishment of customs systems adaptable to the changed conditions at the end of the war. The book emphasizes the necessity of a resumption of industries destroyed by hostile invasion, the revivification of business, the stimulation of old industries that have survived the war, and the change of war into peaceful industries.

JAPANESE EXTEND INTEREST IN CHINESE IRON PRODUCTS.

[Consul General Thomas Sammons, Shanghai, China, Sept. 12.]

The Japanese who have financial and other interests in the Han Yeh Ping steel plant at Hankow have now made an arrangement with the Chinese for the further utilization of the iron products of this country, and for the establishment in Japan of a steel industry, according to a statement from the local office of the Han Yeh Ping corporation.

One of the several public announcements that have been made in regard to the undertaking is:

The establishment of a big steel foundry at Kyushu, Japan, under joint Chinese and Japanese ownership is confirmed by the Shanghai office of the Han Yeh Ping Co. (Ltd.), the Chinese representative of the proposed corporation. The project was passed at a board meeting early this month, and the contract signed at Peking on September 6 by the managing director. The capital of the new joint concern will be 20,000,000 yen (yen=49.8 cents), and capitalists of each country will furnish half the amount. The contract stipulates that the Han Yeh Ping corporation shall furnish the new concern with 5,000 tons of pig iron per month at a reasonable rate.

The manager of the Shanghai office expressed the opinion that the new foundry will be ready for operation in two years. The Han Yeh Ping Co. is now trying to obtain machinery from the United States to enlarge the blasting furnace at Tayeh, Hupeh, in order to increase the output of pig iron.

[Articles on Chinese and Japanese iron and steel enterprises were published in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for June 5, Sept. 12, and Oct. 1, 1917.]

DEFORESTATION IN NEW ZEALAND.

[Consul General Alfred A. Winslow, Auckland, Sept. 10.]

A recent official report states that kauri lumber is cut to the extent of 52,000,000 feet per annum. At this rate the supply will not last more than seven or eight years longer, and at the present rate of cutting all lumber in New Zealand forests will be exhausted within about 28 to 30 years. This means that the imports of lumber must be very greatly increased. The price of native lumber has increased as follows: Rimu was \$5.84 per 100 feet in 1900 and \$8.52 in 1917; matai, \$5.47 and \$8.03; and kauri, \$7.18 and \$10.46.

PATENT APPLICATIONS IN NEW ZEALAND.

[Consul General Alfred A. Winslow, Auckland, Aug. 21.]

During 1916 there were 882 applications for patents in New Zealand. This shows about 8 applications per thousand population, as compared with 3.7 for Great Britain, 4.4 for Australia, and 5.7 for the United States. Applications for improved milking machinery took the lead.

Consul at Bermuda Visits United States.

A dispatch from Consul Carl R. Loop, at Hamilton, Bermuda, states that he expected to arrive in the United States about October 11, and will remain in this country until about December 8. His address will be care of Delta Tau Delta Club, 122 East Thirty-sixth Street, New York City.

PROPOSALS FOR GOVERNMENT SUPPLIES AND CONSTRUCTION.

[Correspondence should be direct with the offices named, and specifications and other information can usually be obtained at the points where the goods are to be delivered or the work is to be performed. In cases where the time limit is too short to permit firms to submit tenders, they should ask to be placed on the mailing lists of such offices to receive notices calling for future supplies or work of a similar nature.]

Boats, No. 4834.—Sealed proposals will be received at the United States Engineer Office, Wheeling, W. Va., until November 16, 1917, for furnishing and delivering seven maneuver boats for Ohio River dams in the Wheeling district.

Navy Department supplies, No. 4835.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Bureau of Supplies and Accounts, Navy Department, Washington, D. C., until October 23, 1917, to which bureau firms desiring to submit bids should apply, giving schedule numbers for furnishing the following: Schedule 1527, Nos. 30 to 41, nainsook drawers; schedule 1528, handkerchiefs; schedule 1529, neckerchiefs; schedule 1530, cotton socks; schedule 1531, towels; and schedule 1532, cotton undershirts.

Oil cases, No. 4836.—Sealed proposals will be received by the Lighthouse Inspector, Portland, Oreg., for sale by the Lighthouse Service of approximately 3,000 empty oil cases (each containing two 5-gallon cans).

Soapstone bench tops, No. 4837.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Bureau of Standards, Washington, D. C., until October 22, 1917, for furnishing and erecting a considerable number of soapstone bench tops and shelves in chemical laboratories.

Lighthouse material sale, No. 4838.—Sealed proposals will be received by the Lighthouse Inspector, Boston, Mass., for sale of condemned lighthouse material at Woods Hole, Mass.

Panama Canal supplies, No. 4839.—Sealed proposals will be received by the General Purchasing Officer of the Panama Canal, Washington, D. C., until October 27, 1917, for furnishing, by steamer, free of all charges, on dock at either Colon (Atlantic port) or port of Ancon (Balboa, Canal Zone) (Pacific port), Isthmus of Panama, sheet copper, electric wire and cable, electric motor, motor generators, automatic starting compensator, electric fixtures and fittings, storage batteries, fire pump, anchors, chain, saws, ice cutters, glass holders, drinking glasses, aluminum pans, silverware, matting, napkins, paper, fire brick, drain tile, silica sand, ferromanganese, sal soda, graphite, carbon bisulphide, calcium chloride, pitch, coal tar, cable grease, creosote oil, Japan oil, turpentine, paint remover, litharge, liquid filler, white lead, Japan drier, enamel, shellac, varnish, paints, lumber, and creosoted ties.

Fishing privileges, No. 4840.—Sealed proposals will be received by the Lighthouse Inspector, Post Office Building, Detroit, Mich., until October 30, 1917, for the sale by the Government of fishing privileges at Copper Harbor Range Lighthouse Reservation, Mich., for a term of five years from December 21, 1917.

Chile Invites Tenders for Locomotive Boilers.

The American ambassador at Santiago, Chile, cables that tenders have been requested by the Chilean Government for 15 locomotive boilers which are urgently required for the State railroads. With their bids American manufacturers are required by the Chilean Government to present the requisite export licenses.

OFFICES OF THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE.

DISTRICT OFFICES.

NEW YORK: 734 Customhouse.
BOSTON: 1801 Customhouse.
CHICAGO: 504 Federal Building.
ST. LOUIS: 402 Third National Bank Building.
NEW ORLEANS: 1020 Hibernia Bank Building.
SAN FRANCISCO: 807 Customhouse.
SEATTLE: 848 Henry Building.

COOPERATIVE OFFICES.

CLEVELAND: Chamber of Commerce.
CINCINNATI: Chamber of Commerce.
CINCINNATI: General Freight Agent, Southern Railway, 96 Ingalls Building.
LOS ANGELES: Chamber of Commerce.
PHILADELPHIA: Chamber of Commerce.
CHATTANOOGA: South American Agent, Southern Railway System.
PORTLAND, OREG.: Chamber of Commerce.
DAYTON: Greater Dayton Association.

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the Bureau and its district and cooperative offices. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and state opportunity number. The Bureau does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases. Symbols: * Reported by American consular officers; † Reported by commercial attachés and commercial agents; ‡ Direct inquiries received by the Bureau.

In considering the following "opportunities" special regard should be had to the laws and regulations governing export licenses and trading with the enemy.

Books, school-----	25599	Laces, boot and shoe-----	25603
Caustic soda-----	25600	Machinery-----	25602
Coal-----	25605	Porcelain and earthenware-----	25597
Enamelware-----	25597	Soda ash-----	25600
Engines, marine-----	25601	Soda crystal-----	25600
Glassware-----	25597	Studs, laundry-----	25598
Hams and bacon-----	25604	Tiles-----	25597
Kitchen utensils-----	25597	Toothpicks-----	25597

25597.*—A merchant in Italy desires to purchase porcelain and earthenware, such as dishes, etc.; kitchen utensils in clay, such as boilers, kettles, etc.; table glassware, such as wine bottles and water bottles, glasses, etc.; wooden toothpicks; enameled clay tiles for wall wainscoting, especially white with blue designs; and enameled iron goods, such as boilers, saucepans, etc. Illustrated catalogues of these different articles may be examined at the bureau or its district offices. (Refer to file No. 92217.) Payment will be made against documents through local bank. Correspondence should be in French or Italian. References.

25598.*—A company in England wishes to buy cheap laundry studs for shirts, etc. Quotations may be made f. o. b. New York. Payment will be made by cash against documents in New York or 60 days' sight draft. Reference.

25599.†—The department of education of a foreign government desires to receive proposals from American printers and publishers for printing two of the most popular schoolbooks of that country. Full information in regard to the requirements may be had on application to the bureau or its district offices. A copy of each book may also be examined at the above-mentioned offices. (Refer to file No. 1293).

25600.*—A company in India desires to purchase chloride of lime, caustic soda, soda ash, and soda crystals. It also wishes to entertain an agency proposition. Payment will be made by cash against documents at destination. Reference.

25601.*—A firm in China wishes to buy and secure an agency for the sale of light, medium, and heavy type marine motor engines. Payment will be made by letter of credit in New York or San Francisco. The engines should be packed in strong export casing, thoroughly reinforced to insure safety in handling. Correspondence may be in English. References.

25602.†—The representative of a firm in Brazil who is at present in the United States desires to purchase cottonseed oil machinery, peanut machinery, castor seed milling and refining machinery, machinery for pressing palm nuts and copra, machinery for fat splitting, glycerin machinery, and candle machinery. Catalogues, prices, etc., should be submitted. Quotations should be made f. o. b. New York City. Correspondence may be in English. He will remain in this country for a period of six weeks. References.

25603.*—A company in Denmark is in the market for boot and shoe laces in wholesale quantities. Quotations should be made f. o. b. nearest American port. Payment will be made by cash against documents. References.

25604.*—A firm in India desires to purchase hams and bacon. Quotations should be made f. o. b. port of shipment. Payment will be made against documents. Correspondence may be in English. Reference.

25605.*—An agency is desired by a firm in France for the sale of coal. Correspondence should be in French. Reference.

PRINCETON COMMERCE REPORTS



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ISSUED DAILY BY THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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No. 244 Washington, D. C., Thursday, October 18 1917

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ALMERIA GRAPES AWAIT SHIPMENT FOR UNITED STATES.

The American vice consul at Almeria, Spain, cables that approximately 300,000 barrels of grapes await shipment to the United States and England.

RENEWAL OF FRENCH EMBARGO ON PRESERVED FRUITS.

Information has been received from the American consul general at Paris that the permission to export canned and preserved fruits to the United States and other allied countries in derogation of the embargo [see COMMERCE REPORTS for Nov. 24, 1916] has been withdrawn by a Ministerial order of October 13. Special licenses will now be required for the exportation of such fruits to any country.

PORTUGAL'S WHEAT REQUIREMENTS.

[Consul General W. L. Lourie, Lisbon, Aug. 22.]

The Portuguese Government is in the market for 30,000 tons of wheat for early delivery. It is estimated that the total requirement before the new crop next year will be a minimum of 55,000 tons. The native wheat was below the average yield this year, and will not supply the demand later than January 1, 1918.

COAL TO CANADA VIA LAKE ERIE PORTS.

At the request of the United States Fuel Administrator, the War Trade Board has announced that the requirements for individual export licenses for shipments of coal to Canada via Lake Erie ports have been withdrawn. [A notice regarding the requirements of individual licenses was published in COMMERCE REPORTS for Oct. 8.]

Buy a United States Government Bond of the Second Liberty Loan.

APPLICATION FOR THE EXPORT OF BUTTER AND OTHER FATS.

The West Indies, Central America, Mexico, and a number of the near-by South American countries have been dependent on the United States for many years for their butter and lard, lard compounds, cottonseed oil, and other edible fats. The entrance of the United States upon the world war has worked a hardship upon these countries, as the necessity of conserving our edible fats has resulted in a curtailment of the exportation of these commodities to the rest of the world.

The War Trade Board is anxious not to interfere with legitimate needs and is desirous that necessary exports continue. Therefore, it announces that in certain special and necessary cases, for the countries mentioned above, in which large numbers of people have been dependent on the American market for their butter and other fats, export licenses will be granted when the evidence submitted with the applications so justifies. In making this announcement the Board wishes further to state that it will now consider first the original applications for licenses to export such edible fats which had been refused, provided shippers reapply. Exporters, therefore, are informed that they may reapply, giving particulars and dates of their first application, and be assured that such applications will be passed upon favorably whenever the evidence submitted with them is sufficient to justify the granting of licenses.

FRENCH EXPERTS TO ASSIST WITH PUBLIC WORKS.

[Consul General A. M. Thackara, Paris, Sept. 14.]

By a decree of the President of France there has been created in the Ministry of Public Works a board of directors—experts chosen from various walks in life—to actively assist the Minister in the initiation and execution of public works, and also in deciding upon bids tendered by contractors. This "Conseil Supérieur" will consist of 21 members, appointed for three years, and it will be divided into four sections as follows:

1. Highways (roads, policing of roads, automobiles, and distribution of electric energy).
2. Navigation (management and utilization of waters, for instance, in the matter of floods and hydraulic engineering).
3. Ports (harbors, lighthouses, and coast defense).
4. Railroads.

It is believed that this measure will afford a strong impetus to public works in France.

Chairs for Moving-Picture Theater.

A special agent of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce reports that a moving-picture theater is being constructed in a city in Ecuador and that about 300 chairs will be needed. Those interested should write to the address on file in the Bureau or its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 1295. Catalogues and correspondence should be in Spanish.

FIRST ESTIMATE OF INDIA'S 1917-18 COTTON CROP.

[Indian (Government) Trade Journal.]

This forecast is based upon reports on the condition of the crop at the end of July or early August. It relates, not to the entire cotton area, but to 77 per cent of the total, as sowings, especially of the late crop, have in many places not yet commenced. No attempt has been made at this stage to estimate the probable outturn.

The returns show that an area of 13,263,000 acres has been sown this year as against 12,351,000 acres on the corresponding date a year ago, an increase of 7 per cent. The increase occurs in the Punjab (49 per cent), Rajputana (39 per cent), Ajmer-Merwara (32 per cent), Northwest Frontier Province (12 per cent), Burma (10 per cent), the Central Provinces and Berar and the United Provinces (5 per cent each), Hyderabad (4 per cent), and Central India (3 per cent). On the other hand, Mysore shows a decrease of 36 per cent, Madras 12 per cent, Bombay 2 per cent, and Bengal 1 per cent.

Climatic conditions at sowing time have been favorable, and the present condition and prospects of the standing crop are reported to be good except in parts of Bombay, Deccan, Madras, Burma, Eastern Bengal, and Mysore. In these tracts sowings have been adversely affected by deficient rainfall.

DECREASED TRADE OF BARRANQUILLA.

[Consul Claude E. Guyant, Barranquilla, Colombia.]

The total value of the exports and imports at the port of Barranquilla for the first six months of 1917 was \$3,180,146 less than for the corresponding period of 1916. The statistics are as follows:

January-June—	Tons.	Values.	Duties collected.	January-June—	Tons.	Values.	Duties collected.
IMPORTS.				EXPORTS.			
1916.....	27,914	\$8,258,476	\$3,144,988	1916.....	29,149	\$9,876,860	\$1,786
1917.....	23,517	7,937,245	2,413,415	1917.....	25,831	7,017,945	1,274

Exchange during 1916 maintained an average of around 103½ per cent, while this year it will average about 107 per cent and possibly more.

The loss to the Government in revenue on account of the reduced foreign trade amounts to \$732,085 during the first six months.

BLAST FURNACES TO BE ERECTED AT THE HOOK OF HOLLAND.

[Commercial Attaché Erwin W. Thompson, The Hague, Sept. 16.]

A company with a capitalization of 25,000,000 florins (about \$10,000,000) is to install some blast furnaces at the Hook of Holland, according to a recent press report. The entire capital is said to have been subscribed by the Rotterdam Bank Association, the Netherlands Trading Co., the Rotterdam Lloyd, Wilton's Machinery Works and Shipbuilding Yards, Messrs. Smulders, of Schiedam, and A. G. Kröller, of Messrs. William Müller & Co.

WHEAT PRICES AND PROSPECTS AT ROSARIO.

[Consul Willbert L. Bonney, Rosario, Argentina, Sept. 3.]

The Grain Dealers' Association of Rosario makes several important recommendations regarding the preparation for market of the wheat crop which is expected in the December harvest.

The association recommends that thrashing be delayed to economize the use of sacks, which will cost about 9 cents each (U. S. currency). Further suggestions to the producer are to the effect that when thrashing can not be delayed the wheat should be stored in bulk; that the same cars that carry the wheat to the primary market shall return with empty sacks; that zinc sheets should be acquired as flooring for grain deposits and canvas for top covering; that Government loans shall be made upon wheat in bulk; and that the various grain-trading associations shall approve the use of second-hand sacks for wheat for export.

Difference in Price of Old and New Crop.

Quotations for wheat of the new crop for delivery in January and February have begun to circulate, and there is a considerable difference in price between cash wheat of the old crop and future wheat of the coming crop. While wheat for immediate delivery is selling in Rosario at the equivalent of about \$1.58 per bushel, wheat of the new crop for delivery in February is quoted at about \$1.12 per bushel, indicating not only the expectation of a large crop but also anxiety as to the possibility of exporting it promptly and as to the means of storing it and borrowing against it pending its sale. The heavy discount upon the new crop prevents its sale by dealers in advance, and if this condition continues the producer will be obliged to carry the grain until the dealers are assured of means of export or until foreign interests enter the Argentine market. No doubt is entertained that the wheat of the Rosario district is needed in the markets of the world and that good prices will be obtained, but the shipping situation is such that dealers apprehend that farmers may be forced to throw their wheat upon the local market without regard to the immediate demands for export.

The method of handling wheat in Argentina has much to do with the present situation, and it is illogical that the new crop, which will unquestionably be needed at good prices abroad, should be regarded by local operators as a burden, selling at a discount of 50 per cent under cash wheat. Rosario dealers expect the embargo upon the exportation of wheat to be removed within a short time and that some balance of the old crop will remain for export, although not enough to affect the prices to any great extent. The demoralization in the corn (maize) markets during the last two weeks has also made wheat operators timid about making offers for new-crop wheat and has made them disinclined to carry any large amount of old-crop wheat.

Articles valued at \$526,718 were invoiced at the American consulate at Moncton, Canada, for the United States during the three months ended September 30, an increase of \$165,521 over the corresponding period in 1916.

TRADE OF PARAGUAY FOR FIRST SIX MONTHS OF 1917.

[Consul Henry H. Balch, Asuncion, Aug. 27.]

The following statistics, furnished by the Direccion General de Estadistica of the Paraguayan Government, shows the total value of imports and exports of Paraguay, by countries, in gold pesos of \$0.965 American currency, for the six months ended June 30, 1917, as compared with the corresponding period of 1916:

Country.	Imports from.		Exports to.	
	Jan. June, 1916.	Jan.-June, 1917.	Jan. June, 1916.	Jan.-June, 1917.
Argentina.....	\$738,201	\$926,576	\$1,756,772	\$2,507,570
Brazil.....	8,135	99,461	5,265	1,926
France.....	31,268	43,125	49,878	78,394
Germany.....	39,015	16,532	.....	.....
Great Britain.....	835,107	821,052	28,083	16,357
Holland.....	9,545	6,545	55,945	1,440
Italy.....	103,428	25,571	34,193	39,095
Spain.....	59,381	189,406	72,761	215,002
United States.....	267,384	529,816	111,885	136,481
Uruguay.....	19,893	19,747	108,472	288,253
Other countries.....	14,940	34,419	456	847
Total.....	2,126,267	2,730,573	2,123,760	3,265,365

As the values herein given are based on the fixed valuations specified in the Paraguayan tariff of 1909 the actual values of imports and exports are probably fully 50 per cent greater than those indicated in the tables.

Large Gain in Imports from United States.

The imports from the United States for the six months of 1917 practically doubled in value compared with the corresponding period in 1916.

A considerable portion of the goods imported from Argentina are not products of that country, but are from other countries. Likewise a large portion of the exports to Argentina, particularly hides, meats, and tanning extracts, are merely exported through Buenos Aires agents to other countries.

Paraguayan merchants object to being forced to trade through Buenos Aires houses, as the middleman's commissions increase the costs and reduce the profits.

While considerable gains are being made in the import trade from the United States, yet American exporters should not be over optimistic regarding these gains. About one-half the importing merchants of Asuncion are foreigners, chiefly German, Italian, and English, and it can hardly be expected that they will prefer the American goods which they are now buying when trade conditions in Europe again become normal. American exporters who wish to hold the gains in trade which they have made with Paraguay should be prepared to offer as favorable credit terms as European competitors offer, which before the war were generally long credits with six per cent interest. Exporters insisting on cash with orders will most probably lose the bulk of their trade when it becomes possible to re-establish old trade relations, as the Paraguayan people are generally poor and interest on money is high, being 1 per cent a month or more.

GERMAN FOREIGN TRADE AFTER THE WAR.

[Algemeen Handelsblad, Amsterdam, Netherlands.]

The Zentralverband des Deutschen Grosshandels (Central Union of the German Wholesale Trade) has issued a series of 20 essays, emphasizing the importance of the wholesale trade for the so-called transition period—the period immediately following the conclusion of peace. The first number of the series is an essay from the pen of Commercial Councillor Lustig, general manager of the Akt. Ges. Dertscher Eisenhandel.

The writer describes the development of the German foreign trade, which, he says, held second place at the time the war broke out. He quotes an utterance of the former director of the Imperial Grain Bureau, Dr. Michaelis, who later became chancellor, to the effect that an imperial grain monopoly would have to be established after the war. It is possible that the chancellor will now seek to establish monopolies of other staple goods. For the other goods the plan appears to be to regulate the importation of raw materials by means of industrial organizations.

To Establish Credits by Exports of Potash and Dyes.

The author is of the opinion that a sudden dissolution of the economic organizations formed during the war might be very harmful to the economic life of the country, but that their methods of operation should, nevertheless, be modified in such a way as to permit cooperation on the part of the wholesale trade. If goods are to be imported by the Government, or by the industries, a necessity will soon arise to pay large sums of money to foreign countries. The wholesale trade, however, can make use of its own connections to obtain credit so that payments will be better regulated and more widely distributed. At the same time an effort should naturally be made to export, as far as possible, goods of a high value, such as potash and dyes, whereby credits may be obtained abroad. The problem would be greatly simplified also by setting aside a large amount of gold for the use of the importers, if that can be done without injury to the German economic system.

Purchases Through Syndicates.

Purchases abroad should be made through syndicates, consisting of representatives of both industry and the wholesale trade. Trade might well be left wholly free, except for the provision that imported goods should be delivered to the syndicates exclusively. Shipping should also be represented in these organizations.

The Government should exercise a certain control over prices, particularly if it should appear that the centralization of imports by itself did not suffice to prevent a large increase in prices. For this purpose price-control bureaus may be established. Taking due account of the prices prevailing in the world markets, these bureaus would fix maximum prices for purchases for German account. In addition, a central organization should be formed to supervise the imports, so that importation may be limited to goods urgently needed, that no industry and no State may be favored at the expense of others, and that all dealings in foreign exchange by the syndicates

may be passed upon by a central authority. If these measures be taken, the distribution of the imported goods may safely be left to the trade.

[Previous articles on German trade methods for the period after the war were published in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for May 16 and Oct. 4, 1917.]

WAR SAVINGS ASSOCIATIONS IN THE FAR EAST.

[Consul Clarence E. Gauss, Amoy, China, Sept. 7.]

The British war savings associations in the Far East represent a united effort on the part of British subjects in that part of the world to support their Government financially during the war. Amoy has such an association as a branch of the Hongkong and South China War Savings Association, and in membership it stands second only to Hongkong.

The idea of such associations may commend itself to patriotic Americans at home, as offering an opportunity for the accumulation of small savings without obligation for continued payments and the investment of such savings in Government war loans. Subscribers derive all the profits, while working expenses are met through voluntary contributions by reputable business houses of time and clerical services. Small personal contributions are made for postage and stationery.

Savings Accumulated by Small Payments.

If the man of small means is unable to subscribe for a war-loan bond or certificate, he may nevertheless accumulate his savings by small payments and have the total invested by the association in such bonds or certificates. The full interest derived accrues to the subscriber in proportion to the amount of the payments.

The associations in the Far East were formed partly for the purpose of providing means for the person of limited income patriotically to apply his savings, however small, to the Government war chests, and partly with the object of relieving the home associations of the heavy clerical burden that was placed upon them by the numerous individual subscriptions they had been receiving. By combining, the associations in the Far East are able to command better exchange rates and to direct funds into the best investment channels.

The associations are not incorporated, but are purely voluntary. The Hongkong and South China organization has a governing committee of six prominent business men and bankers of Hongkong. The positions of honorary secretaries and treasurers are filled by the Union Insurance Society of Canton (Ltd.), which has a large clerical staff and devotes as much time as may be necessary to the work without compensation; Messrs. Lowe, Bingham & Matthews, chartered accountants and auditors, serve as honorary auditors; and the Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corporation is the association's banker.

Subscribers are Members of Association.

The rules state that the object is to obtain subscriptions from residents in Hongkong and South China for the purpose of investing them in securities bearing interest at not less than 5 per cent and issued or guaranteed by the Government of the United Kingdom or

of any British colony or of the Federated Malay States for financing the war. Every subscriber to the funds thereby becomes a member of the association. Membership is not limited to British subjects but may be obtained by members of the allied or associated countries or by neutrals. The funds are administered by trustees who constitute the "committee" of the association. The committee consists of not less than 3 or more than 6 members, and their decision on all matters connected with the rules is final. They have power to fill any vacancy in their number from the general body of members and to make such by-laws as may be necessary for the convenient transaction of the association's affairs.

A local committee of business men has been formed at Amoy to look after the branch in that town and to further its objects in the neighborhood. As in the case of the Hongkong committee, it gives its time voluntarily, no deductions whatever being made from subscriptions for working expenses.

Amounts May be Paid at Any Time.

The rules provide that the monthly subscription of a member shall be \$5 or any multiple of \$3 (local currency), and may be increased or decreased at his convenience. No person in any way ceases to be a member, nor does he lose his rights in respect of the amount or amounts subscribed by him by reason of the fact that in any month or months he shall not have paid the subscription. The amounts may be paid at any time to the honorary treasurers, and during the first week of each month the aggregate for the preceding month is converted into sterling and invested by the honorary treasurers in accordance with the object of the association.

The Hongkong and South China Association is now investing in the Straits war loan which pays 6 per cent. The interest earned on the investments of the association is invested in a similar manner and is credited to the accounts of the individual members.

May Receive Interest in Cash.

Any member at the time of making his first payment may give notice that whenever interest is received he desires that his share be paid to him in cash instead of being reinvested. Provision is also made for the transfer of the share of any member. A certificate of the amount is issued by the proper officers of the association and is transferable when indorsed by the transferor and transferee and registered in the association's books. Provision has now been made by which the face value of any such transferred share may be obtained by a person who finds it necessary to withdraw his funds. In the event of the death of a member a similar certificate is issued transferring the amount of the subscriptions and interest of the deceased person to his legal representative.

A system of pass books is used for the recording of payments, and the subscriber is also given a distinctive number under which his subscription is regularly acknowledged in the public press. The accounts of the association are compiled on December 31 in each year, and are certified by the honorary auditors and published in the press for the information of members.

It is provided that as soon as practicable after the close of the war, but not before 1920, the invested funds will be realized and divided pro rata among the members.

Circular Issued by Association.

In seeking subscribers the association has put out the following circular:

The more money that is placed at the disposal of the Government, and the sooner it is done the earlier will the war be brought to a successful conclusion. It is a duty to our soldiers and sailors to help them with the munitions and equipment needed to save their lives and to shorten the war, and it is hoped that every British resident will realize and act upon this simple fact.

This is not an appeal for charity; it is not an appeal to anyone to live in penury to enable him to give more to his country. It is a common-sense suggestion to put at the disposal of the British Government a combined surplus of income which might otherwise be diverted into other channels. Any surplus of income, however small in individual cases, can be placed at the disposal of the Government to the profit of both the country and the investor. The man in receipt of a small salary, who may only have a \$5 surplus at the end of the month, and says, "It is not worth while to invest that—it is too small," forgets that he is one of 40,000,000 who could each show a surplus of \$60 per annum without any effort, and so place an annual sum of \$2,400,000,000 at the disposal of the Government.

CANADA'S EXPORTS OF CATTLE TO UNITED STATES.

[Consul Fred C. Slater, Sarnia, Ontario, Oct. 12.]

The export of cattle from the Sarnia consular district appears to be on the increase. During the calendar year 1915 the Sarnia consulate issued invoices covering shipments of cattle to the United States aggregating in value \$895,381; while during 1916 invoices were issued aggregating \$1,093,070. For the quarter ended September 30, 1917, the invoices totaled \$580,849. At the same time the Canadian customs report shows a decrease, giving the exports for the fiscal year ended March 31, 1916, \$12,002,555, and for the fiscal year ended March 31, 1917, as \$7,883,842; but gives the quarter ended September 30, 1917, as \$5,181,786. From these figures it would appear that about one-tenth of the cattle shipped out of all Canada are exported from the Sarnia consular district, comprising a little more than two counties.

INDIA'S NEW SESAME CROP.

The first official forecast of India's sesame crop for 1917-18 has been published. It is based on reports received from eight Provinces, which contain on an average 77 per cent of the entire area under sesame in British India. Estimates for the United Provinces and for the late crops of Bengal and Bihar and Orissa are excluded from the calculations.

The total area so far reported amounts to 1,877,000 acres, as against 1,805,000 acres (revised figures) for the same tracts at the corresponding date last year, or an increase of 4 per cent. Sowing operations were hindered by excessive and continuous rain in parts of the Central Provinces and by deficient rainfall in parts of Madras, Bombay, and Bengal. With these exceptions, climatic conditions at sowing time were favorable and the outlook is generally reported to be good.

Buy a United States Government Bond of the Second Liberty Loan.

MANILA HEMP PRODUCTION AND EXPORTS.

The campaign which the Philippine Bureau of Agriculture has been waging for some time, looking to the improvement of the grades of hemp produced in the islands, is meeting with gratifying success, as attested by official data of production and exportation in the fiscal years 1916 and 1917 just made public by the Bureau of Insular Affairs at Washington. As compiled by the latter bureau the yield of fiber, by grades and Provinces, for the two years was, in long tons:

Grades.	Albay.		Leyte.		Camarines.		Sorsogon.		Samar.	
	1916	1917	1916	1917	1916	1917	1916	1917	1916	1917
	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>
A. Extra prime.....	23	21			147	94	1	5	2	1
B. Prime.....	107	26	6	1	319	404	25	217	36	4
C. Superior current.....	365	85	63	62	464	753	61	1,027	294	42
D. Good current.....	386	185	643	670	297	220	98	1,132	1,339	292
E. Midway.....	306	186	3,317	3,365	120	40	412	662	3,157	1,430
F. Current.....	288	244	6,062	7,213	120	30	1,753	927	3,834	4,445
S-1. Streaky No. 1.....	38	33	812	287	48	60	24	153	905	338
S-2. Streaky No. 2.....	20	21	1,139	1,080	22	23	43	193	1,571	1,331
S-3. Streaky No. 3.....	11	15	477	690	4	4	14	80	404	967
G. Seconds.....	163	302	2,287	1,730	81	25	936	416	1,238	1,820
H. Brown.....	202	228	1,693	1,345	59	43	1,074	648	167	464
I. Good fair.....	1,444	907	7,359	6,200	522	129	5,058	2,540	1,336	3,586
J. Fair.....	8,489	6,338	6,595	7,866	1,601	868	5,071	1,802	101	1,050
K. Medium.....	3,392	2,613	1,902	4,001	670	342	1,553	1,794	18	1,433
L. Coarse.....	11,224	5,983	823	6,253	7,458	4,964	316	1,094	3	62
M. Coarse brown.....	4,311	2,591	38	910	3,108	1,614	30	136	11	6
DL. Daet coarse a.....	585	2,886		84	1,528	2,210		15	1	
DM. Daet coarse brown a.....	132	879		3	858	1,414		3	2	
O-OO-Y-T. Other grades.....	465	317	1,083	1,640	330	242	274	263	231	367
Total.....	31,951	23,860	34,210	43,379	17,756	13,518	16,776	16,137	14,650	16,357
Percentage.....	23.0	16.0	24.5	29.1	12.8	9.0	12.1	10.8	10.5	10.9

Grades.	North Mindanao.		South Mindanao.		Cavite.		Other Provinces.		Total.	
	1916	1917	1916	1917	1916	1917	1916	1917	1916	1917
	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>
A. Extra prime.....			81	86	514	536	127	235	895	978
B. Prime.....	3	1	274	385	409	394	288	646	1,467	2,078
C. Superior current.....	70	30	604	1,240	111	259	948	1,350	2,986	4,848
D. Good current.....	692	478	664	1,592	9	19	1,021	1,630	5,152	6,218
E. Midway.....	2,425	2,559	849	1,371	1		711	1,690	11,298	11,333
F. Current.....	2,632	3,576	919	1,441			285	1,043	15,923	18,919
S-1. Streaky No. 1.....	280	138	211	279	4	2	186	327	2,508	1,626
S-2. Streaky No. 2.....	326	416	67	270			60	186	3,245	3,520
S-3. Streaky No. 3.....	158	197	19	67			16	34	1,103	2,024
G. Seconds.....	323	557	98	166			56	162	5,182	5,168
H. Brown.....	125	165	9	15			15	29	3,254	2,947
I. Good, fair.....	1,314	1,785	370	622			100	399	17,593	16,148
J. Fair.....	669	732	24	53			139	216	22,693	21,934
K. Medium.....	269	253	2	15			98	65	7,904	9,296
L. Coarse.....	775	1,642	4	6			1,840	579	22,443	20,573
M. Coarse brown.....	549	978	2	1			886	43	8,883	6,728
DL. Daet coarse a.....	68	1,127					387	1,230	2,509	7,552
DM. Daet coarse brown a.....	43	562					119	865	1,154	3,726
O-OO-Y-T. Other grades.....	230	474	79	136	35	68	125	166	2,857	3,673
Total.....	10,917	15,050	4,276	7,745	1,083	1,278	7,380	11,325	138,593	149,249
Percentage.....	7.8	10.5	3.1	5.2	0.8	0.9	5.3	7.6	100.0	100.0

a Not separately reported prior to January, 1916.

Chief Purchasers of Manila Hemp.

The official figures of the hemp exported from the Philippines for the last two years by grades and countries of destination follow:

Grades.	United States.				United Kingdom.			
	Tons.		Value.		Tons.		Value.	
	1916	1917	1916	1917	1916	1917	1916	1917
A. Extra prime.....	32	38	\$9,258	\$19,363	1	4	\$360	\$1,990
B. Prime.....	636	400	162,186	178,761	63	4	15,998	1,630
C. Superior current.....	2,180	1,341	480,150	571,183	552	131	119,642	43,119
D. Good current.....	3,671	2,531	826,890	949,396	620	334	135,845	97,293
E. Midway.....	11,549	7,462	2,370,426	2,980,786	364	56	65,370	15,025
F. Current.....	16,033	15,147	3,229,295	4,180,723	336	187	66,626	46,660
S-1. Streaky No. 1.....	3,009	1,480	570,744	381,017	171	.....	28,922	.....
S-2. Streaky No. 2.....	1,859	1,838	367,360	467,417	1,388	547	226,679	115,697
S-3. Streaky No. 3.....	216	940	36,776	217,466	962	330	152,422	67,213
G. Seconds.....	3,344	3,647	552,216	751,056	1,450	952	250,207	180,509
H. Brown.....	841	1,866	188,905	360,562	2,477	1,015	377,150	193,083
I. Good fair.....	16,567	13,905	2,955,739	3,076,967	520	332	94,085	74,546
J. Fair.....	10,263	13,768	1,683,349	2,635,921	8,117	4,462	1,323,549	877,372
K. Medium.....	416	1,331	88,112	223,354	6,521	0,432	970,417	1,154,878
L. Coarse.....	355	2,239	46,975	316,855	18,065	12,284	2,468,138	2,031,706
M. Coarse brown.....	31	99	3,150	20,444	9,167	4,772	1,117,038	738,904
DL. Daet coarse.....	.....	277	.....	44,575	1,532	4,921	237,133	801,147
DM. Daet coarse brown.....	.....	50	.....	7,400	820	2,072	121,549	311,801
O-OO-Y-T. Other grades.....	877	1,509	79,894	256,714	1,008	308	68,732	24,664
Total.....	72,092	69,868	13,572,405	17,037,191	54,734	39,143	7,839,768	6,776,087

Grades.	Japan.				Other countries.			
	Tons.		Value.		Tons.		Value.	
	1916	1917	1916	1917	1916	1917	1916	1917
A. Extra prime.....	788	976	\$343,578	\$609,005	1	.....	\$755	.....
B. Prime.....	907	1,303	378,217	755,112	6	9	2,294	\$2,852
C. Superior current.....	819	1,749	286,941	902,382	76	44	16,133	14,567
D. Good current.....	480	1,133	138,770	513,451	829	297	170,571	92,618
E. Midway.....	218	437	51,239	179,415	967	994	191,930	290,458
F. Current.....	42	139	7,702	47,059	739	1,656	137,693	453,676
S-1. Streaky No. 1.....	.....	7	1,215	19,282	1	137	258	32,905
S-2. Streaky No. 2.....	275	517	47,838	121,024	13	174	2,609	36,860
S-3. Streaky No. 3.....	48	220	7,132	52,734	1	129	268	28,882
G. Seconds.....	187	245	20,824	58,781	301	398	49,761	77,662
H. Brown.....	1	2	250	420	31	98	4,849	18,428
I. Good fair.....	48	44	7,584	8,844	342	2,169	61,373	448,426
J. Fair.....	156	242	23,792	45,038	2,735	3,400	450,951	680,961
K. Medium.....	32	11	4,384	1,564	378	274	79,974	48,984
L. Coarse.....	350	504	39,522	78,876	2,625	3,471	338,324	574,326
M. Coarse brown.....	22	1	3,418	203	1,001	409	121,506	76,118
DL. Daet coarse.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	150	17	21,845	2,873
DM. Daet coarse brown.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	64	.....	6,275	.....
O-OO-Y-T. Other grades.....	1,616	2,123	99,193	193,642	60	15	4,059	943
Total.....	5,946	9,715	1,501,699	3,581,832	10,520	13,751	1,661,428	2,864,440

Grades.	Total.				Average export price.	
	Tons.		Value.		1916	1917
	1916	1917	1916	1917		
A. Extra prime.....	822	1,018	\$393,951	\$630,328	\$479	\$619
B. Prime.....	1,612	1,716	548,695	938,355	340	547
C. Superior current.....	3,627	3,265	912,866	1,531,103	252	469
D. Good current.....	5,800	4,295	1,292,076	1,652,587	223	385
E. Midway.....	13,098	8,949	2,678,975	2,866,284	206	320
F. Current.....	17,140	17,129	3,441,186	4,733,108	201	276
S-1. Streaky No. 1.....	3,188	1,686	601,139	433,394	189	267
S-2. Streaky No. 2.....	3,628	3,076	614,486	733,968	174	239
S-3. Streaky No. 3.....	1,227	1,619	196,604	366,795	160	227
G. Seconds.....	5,232	5,242	874,108	1,063,008	167	203
H. Brown.....	3,350	2,981	521,154	572,443	156	192
I. Good fair.....	17,477	16,450	3,118,781	3,608,782	178	219
J. Fair.....	21,301	21,872	3,481,641	4,219,122	163	193
K. Medium.....	7,547	8,048	1,122,887	1,428,280	149	177
L. Coarse.....	21,995	18,498	2,592,959	3,001,765	132	162
M. Coarse brown.....	10,221	5,341	1,245,112	835,069	122	156
DL. Daet coarse.....	1,682	6,215	258,978	848,895	154	163
DM. Daet coarse brown.....	884	2,122	127,824	319,301	145	150
O-OO-Y-T. Other grades.....	3,561	3,955	251,878	475,963	71	120
Total.....	143,292	132,477	24,575,300	30,259,550	172	228

Gratifying Improvement in Grade.

The campaign of the Philippine Bureau of Agriculture was carried out by means of posters printed in the dialects of the people, put up in the hemp regions, and by sending inspectors to give lectures in the various fiber districts. As stated, the results have been gratifying in the extreme—as witness an increase of 12.5 per cent in the amount of well-cleaned fiber (A-H grades) produced in the year ended June 30, 1917, contrasted with an increase of but 7.4 per cent in the total hemp outturn. If only the last six months of the fiscal year be considered—that is, January–June, 1917, compared with January–June, 1916—the gain in quality is really remarkable, for an increase of 6.4 per cent in total yield is accompanied by an increase of 43 per cent in the amount of well-cleaned fiber produced, as the following statement discloses:

Grades.	January–June.	
	1916	1917
	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>
Well-cleaned fiber (A-H grades).....	25,440	36,406
Partially cleaned fiber (I-M grades).....	42,781	34,092
Woody and waste fibers (other grades).....	5,562	8,022
Total.....	73,783	78,520
Percentage of total well cleaned.....	34	46

Improved Quality Results in Higher Export Values.

In the fiscal year 1917 there was a decline in the quantity of hemp exported, though an increase occurred in the total value, shipments falling from 143,292 tons to 132,477 tons and the value advancing from \$24,575,300 to \$30,259,550. This gives an average export value of \$172 per long ton for 1916 and \$228 for 1917, a further attestation of improvement in quality.

The general rise in hemp prices caused by disturbed market conditions is partly responsible for this higher average value, but the fact must not be overlooked that the increase was proportionately greater for the better grades. Thus, the average price for Grade A (Extra prime) advanced by 30 per cent over the 1916 average, B (Prime) by 61 per cent, C (Superior current) by 86 per cent, D (Good current) by 73 per cent, E (Midway) by 56 per cent, F (Current) by 37 per cent, S-1 (Streaky No. 1) by 36 per cent, S-2 (Streaky No. 2) by 37 per cent, S-3 (Streaky No. 3) by 42 per cent, G (Seconds) by 21 per cent, and H (Brown) by 23 per cent, whereas Grade I (Good fair) rose by 23 per cent, J (Fair) by 18 per cent, K (Medium) by 19 per cent, L (Coarse) by 23 per cent, M (Coarse brown) by 29 per cent, DL (Daet coarse) by 6 per cent, and DM (Daet coarse brown) by 3 per cent.

The United States remains the Philippines' best customer for Manila hemp. A decline of 3 per cent in quantity was accompanied by an increase of nearly 26 per cent in the value of its purchases in 1917. The United Kingdom and Japan are the other leading buyers, as figures already given show.

THE FIG CROP AT MALAGA.

[Consul Louis G. Dreyfus, Jr., Malaga, Spain, Sept. 4.]

The fig harvest in the vicinity of Malaga usually begins in the latter part of August and continues until October. This industry was of small importance until the outbreak of the European war interfered with the Turkish, Greek, and Italian export trade, when Spanish figs sprang into prominence. The exports of dried figs from Spain during the last three years were 2,669 metric tons in 1914, 14,981 tons in 1915, and 10,033 tons in 1916. During the last-mentioned year the exports from Malaga were 3,017 tons, of which 1,473 went to France, 340 to the United States, 322 to Great Britain, and 269 tons to Argentina. It is interesting to note that in the year 1915 the exports of figs from Malaga to the United States did not reach 1 ton.

Exporters state that under favorable conditions the Malaga district yields about 15,000 tons of figs, of which 8,000 or 9,000 are available for export. Previous to the war prices were very low. Because of the present favorable conditions new trees are being set out. A fig tree begins to bear when 4 years old.

Packing for Export.

As soon as the figs are ripe they are removed from the trees and laid on the ground to dry in the sun. At night they are covered over with canvas. The drying takes only five or six days. The figs are then ready for packing. Formerly Malaga figs were exported in palm-leaf mats or frails of 25 pounds each. However, in order to imitate the Turkish and Greek packing for foreign markets the figs are now packed in wooden boxes of 2, 11, and 22 pounds. The type of packing known as "layer" figs, where the fruit is slit and opened out, was not used in this district until last year. Previous to that time the product of Malaga consisted only of "pulled" figs. This form of packing still predominates.

The local shippers formerly purchased the figs in the country for about 2 pesetas per frail of 25 pounds. At present the price is 4 or 5 pesetas. The price of figs carefully packed for export varies around 100 pesetas per 100 kilos (220.4 pounds). (The value of the peseta, which was formerly about 19.3 cents, is now about 22 cents.)

Crop Prospect.

The outlook for this year's crop is said to be very good, although the harvest is two or three weeks later than usual. A definite forecast of the yield can not be given at this writing because the fall rains may cause damage to the crops. However, it is estimated that the yield may reach 15,000 metric tons. The quality of this year's crop is also said to be very good.

Exporters who are familiar with all the Mediterranean fig-growing countries say that the Malaga fruit compares favorably with that of the other districts. While the average of the Smyrna product may be slightly superior to the local variety, part of the Malaga figs are said to be as good as the best of the Turkish figs.

[A list of the principal exporters of figs at Malaga may be procured from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district and cooperative offices by referring to file No. 86649.]

DOCK WAREHOUSE RATES AND CHARGES AT LIVERPOOL.

[Consul Horace Lee Washington, Liverpool, England, Sept. 26.]

Official notification has been received from the Mersey Docks and Harbor Board of Liverpool that on and after October 1, 1917, in order to meet the extra cost entailed by reason of the recent advances in the rates of wages and overtime and the increase of other expenditure, 66 per cent in lieu of 52½ per cent will be added to all warehouse rates and charges on goods dealt with at the warehouses of the Mersey Docks and Harbor Board, with the exception of the consolidated rates on tobacco, in which case the percentage will be increased from 25 to 42. The percentage added to the rates of rent on goods stored in the board's warehouses will remain as at present, viz, 20 per cent.

WHEAT GRADES HIGH THIS YEAR.

A large part of this year's wheat crop has graded high at the markets—No. 3 or better—under the Federal wheat standards made effective this year. The United States Department of Agriculture calls attention to this because persistent false rumors have been circulated in the grain trade, and particularly among country shippers and producers, to the effect that, under the new Federal standards for wheat, very little of the marketed crop is being, or has been, placed in the higher grades. On the contrary the requirements of the Federal standards for wheat are not such as to work hardship on the country shippers and producers, for under these standards high grades have been given to a heavy percentage of the wheat marketed.

CORN CROP IN BERMUDA.

[Consul Carl R. Loop, Hamilton, Oct. 4.]

For the first time in the history of the colony Bermuda has grown this year almost enough corn for its local requirements. It is estimated that about 400 acres were under cultivation, and according to special measurements calculated by the director of agriculture the yield varied from 50 to 80 bushels per acre. A very reasonable estimate, therefore, is that the total yield for the year is 20,000 bushels.

The quality of the corn as gathered is fairly good, although on account of inexperience a number of farmers gathered their corn too green, with the result that part of the crop has been spoiled.

OFFICES OF THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE.**DISTRICT OFFICES.**

NEW YORK: 734 Customhouse.
 BOSTON: 1801 Customhouse.
 CHICAGO: 504 Federal Building.
 ST. LOUIS: 402 Third National Bank Building.
 NEW ORLEANS: 1020 Hibernia Bank Building.
 SAN FRANCISCO: 307 Customhouse.
 SEATTLE: 848 Henry Building.

COOPERATIVE OFFICES.

CLEVELAND: Chamber of Commerce.
 CINCINNATI: Chamber of Commerce.
 CINCINNATI: General Freight Agent, Southern Railway, 96 Ingalls Building.
 LOS ANGELES: Chamber of Commerce.
 PHILADELPHIA: Chamber of Commerce.
 CHATTANOOGA: South American Agent, Southern Railway System.
 PORTLAND, OREG.: Chamber of Commerce.
 DAYTON: Greater Dayton Association.

PROPOSALS FOR GOVERNMENT SUPPLIES AND CONSTRUCTION:

[Correspondence should be direct with the offices named, and specifications and other information can usually be obtained at the points where the goods are to be delivered or the work is to be performed. In cases where the time limit is too short to permit firms to submit tenders, they should ask to be placed on the mailing lists of such offices to receive notices calling for future supplies or work of a similar nature.]

Repair of wharf, No. 4841.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Bureau of Yards and Docks, Navy Department, Washington, D. C., until November 5, 1917, for renewal of decking and fender system for steel wharf at Port Royal, S. C. Specifications No. 2630.

Repair of light vessel, No. 4842.—Sealed proposals will be received by the Light-house Inspector, Baltimore, Md., for docking, cleaning, painting, refubing boilers, and minor repairs to hull and machinery of Light Vessel No. 80.

Steel water tank, No. 4843.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Bureau of Yards and Docks, Navy Department, Washington, D. C., until November 5, 1917, for the provision and erection of one 150,000-gallon steel water tank and tower on concrete foundations at the navy yard, Philadelphia, Pa. Specifications No. 2632.

Navy Department supplies, No. 4844.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Bureau of Supplies and Accounts, Navy Department, Washington, D. C., until the dates given. Bidders desiring to submit proposals should give schedule numbers for furnishing the following: Until November 6, 1917, schedule No. 1533, naval rolled angles bar brass, flat round bar brass, commercial sheet brass, manganese ingot bronze, full spring strip sheet phosphor bronze, hard-drawn bar copper, cold-rolled plain sheet copper, and sheet metal; and schedule 1534, 4,000 pounds capacity transportation electric truck.

Steel tower, No. 4845.—Sealed proposals will be received by the Bureau of Yards and Docks, Navy Department, Washington, D. C., until November 5, 1917, for constructing one 300-foot steel tower and reinforcing two existing steel towers at the navy yard, Charleston, S. C. Specifications No. 2631.

Printing, No. 4846.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Medical Supply Depot, 543 Greenwich Street, New York, N. Y., until October 23, 1917, for printing 6 reams letter writing paper, and for printing 4 reams note writing paper.

Steel tower, No. 4847.—Sealed proposals will be received by the Bureau of Yards and Docks, Navy Department, Washington, D. C., until November 5, 1917, for constructing one 200-foot steel tower and the taking down, strengthening, and reerection of an existing 200-foot steel tower at the navy yard, Norfolk, Va. Specifications No. 2633.

Earthwork construction, No. 4848.—Sealed proposals will be received by the Reclamation Service, Department of the Interior, El Paso, Tex., until November 15, 1917, for the construction of canals on the Rio Grande Project, near Garfield, N. Mex., involving about 22,000 cubic yards of excavation.

Court-house construction, No. 4849.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Supervising Architect's Office, Treasury Department, Washington, D. C., until November 14, 1917, for the remodeling, etc., of the courthouse at Austin, Tex.

Pitch and gravel roof, No. 4850.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Bureau of Yards and Docks, Navy Department, Washington, D. C., until October 29, 1917, for a pitch and gravel roof to be constructed over boiler room, central power plant building 108, at navy yard, Boston, Mass. Specifications No. 2629.

Purchase of steamer, No. 4851.—Sealed proposals will be received by the Coast and Geodetic Survey, Washington, D. C., until December 7, 1917, for the purchase of the steamer *Taku*, now at Cordova, Alaska.

Shipbuilding ways, No. 4852.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Bureau of Yards and Docks, Navy Department, Washington, D. C., until November 19, 1917, for a concrete and timber shipbuilding ways on pile foundations at the navy yard, New York, N. Y. Specifications No. 2577.

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the Bureau and its district and cooperative offices. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and state opportunity number. The Bureau does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases. Symbols: * Reported by American consular officers; † Reported by commercial attaches and commercial agents; ‡ Direct inquiries received by the Bureau.

In considering the following "opportunities" special regard should be had to the laws and regulations governing export licenses and trading with the enemy.

Bicycles-----	25610	Leather-----	25614
Brushes, paint-----	25611	Machinery-----	25606
Chemicals-----	25613	Motors-----	25612
Conduits, iron-----	25615	Paints and varnishes-----	25611
Cotton piece goods-----	25607	Shoe findings-----	25614
Dyes-----	25613	Textiles-----	25607
Electrical machinery-----	25608	Trotting goods-----	25600
Enamel-----	25611	Water heaters-----	25614

25606.†—A group of British-Chinese capitalists in the Straits Settlements desire to receive proposals from firms in the United States who are prepared to furnish complete, or in part, plants for making steel rods, plates, and nails, with a capacity of about 10 tons per day.

25607.*—A firm in British East Africa desires to purchase unbleached cotton piece goods and other textiles. Payment will be made by sight draft with bill of lading attached. Quotations should be made in English sterling, if possible. All baled goods should have 12-ounce burlap wrapping and extra strong strapping, with waterproof linings. Correspondence may be in English. Reference.

25608.*—A mining corporation in Italy wishes to buy electrical machinery. Credit will be opened in New York for payment. Correspondence should be in French or Italian.

25609.*—A man in New Zealand is in the market for trotting goods, such as hobbles, pads, gait gears, etc. Quotations should be made f. o. b. steamer port of shipment. Cash will be paid with order. References.

25610.*—A company in Canada desires to purchase cushion-frame bicycles. Quotations may be made f. o. b. Cash will be paid.

25611.*—A firm in Brazil wishes to buy paints, pigments, oils, varnish, turpentine, enamel, paint brushes, etc., of first-class quality for building construction work. Quotations may be made f. o. b. New York. Correspondence may be in English. Reference.

25612.*—A man in Mexico is in the market for a number of motors for use in the cultivation of land, etc., for use on a plantation. Correspondence may be in English.

25613.*—An agency is desired by a firm in Brazil for the sale of industrial chemicals, caustic soda, soda ash, acetic acid suitable for the textile and soap industries, and all kinds of dyes suitable for cotton textile industry. All business is desired on a commission basis. Cash will be paid. Shipments are preferred through some reputable export house which understands documentation for Brazil. Correspondence may be in English. Reference.

25614.*—A man in New Zealand desires to secure an agency for the sale of a small detachable electrical water heater, heavy sole leather, bends and upper leather, buttons and fasteners, brass and iron boot brads, hobnails, rubber heels and soles, mohair laces, etc. Payment will be made by cash in advance or sight draft with bill of lading attached. Quotations should be made f. o. b. steamer New York or San Francisco. References.

25615.*—A firm in Switzerland wishes to purchase 50,000 meters of rigid iron conduits for electrical installments, sizes 7, 9, 11, 13, and 16, especially 9 and 11. Quotations should be made f. o. b. New York. Account will be opened in New York bank for payment. Correspondence may be in English. References.

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY COMMERCE REPORTS



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PRICES OF CATTLE IN HOLLAND.

[Consul Frank W. Mahin, Amsterdam, Sept. 19.]

The price of a cow not giving milk and sold for slaughter in Holland is now from \$50 to \$115; of a calf, for veal, from \$18 to \$35.

A good milch cow sells for about \$125. This is a decline of \$40 or \$50 in comparison with prices a few weeks ago, on account of the scarcity of fodder. There is serious talk of slaughtering or exporting several hundred thousand cattle because of inability to feed them sufficiently.

EXPORTS FROM BRADFORD TO UNITED STATES DURING SEPTEMBER.

[Consul Augustus E. Ingram, Bradford, England, Oct. 4.]

The value of the exports invoiced at the Bradford consulate for shipment to the United States during the month of September, 1917, was \$983,396, as compared with \$1,249,535 in the corresponding month of last year. The largest item was that of cotton cloths chiefly mercerized cotton linings, dyed and finished, which amounted to \$548,608. No fleece wool was shipped, but the shipments of merino wool noils amounted to \$78,233. There were no shipments of wool wastes. Woolen and worsted cloths showed a further decline, even from the low figures of recent months; wool dress goods were also shipped in only small quantities; while mohair and alpaca cloths declined to \$46,950, as compared with \$99,061 in September, 1916. Spun silk yarn, despite the marked advance in prices for present deliveries, also showed a decline, the shipments amounting to \$77,521. Textile machinery which was in prewar times a large item in the exports to the United States, has now declined to a very low figure owing to the difficulties in getting deliveries and in obtaining export licenses.

In spite of all the difficulties that exporters have now to meet, and the practical cessation of all shipments of raw fleece wool, mohair,

and wool tops, the shipments from this district to the United States during the past nine months of this year amount to \$11,971,304, as compared with \$10,713,677 and \$12,012,184 in the same periods of 1916 and 1915, respectively. The figures for the nine months of 1914, however, were \$26,085,362.

THE RECONSTITUTION OF RECONQUERED REGIONS IN FRANCE.

[Commercial Attaché C. W. A. Veditz, Paris, Sept. 15.]

The French Minister of the Interior has decided to arrange immediately for the manufacture of numerous articles intended for the use of the population of those regions of France from which the enemy has recently been expelled. With this object in view, he has requested offers from manufacturers and dealers capable of furnishing the required goods. These competitive offers will then be examined and important purchases made on behalf of the Government. Bids are asked for immediately for the manufacture of 20,000 wooden bed frames, in 40 lots of 500 each, each manufacturer being allowed to bid upon 5 lots; for the manufacture of 10,000 school desks with seats, in 20 lots of 500 each, each manufacturer being permitted to bid on a maximum of 5 lots; for 10,000 cement sinks, with auxiliary parts. Further bids will be invited later for other lines of goods required by the population of the territory formerly invaded.

ITINERARY OF RUSSIAN MINING ENGINEER.

Mr. Fedor F. Foss, a member of the Russian Mission to the United States, has announced dates on which he will visit various centers of mining or mining-machinery activities. His tour of the country, which has already begun, will continue for a number of weeks. His itinerary so far as it has been arranged includes: October 27 and 28, Great Falls, Mont., Hotel Rainbow; November 2, Salt Lake City, Utah, Hotel Utah; November 3 to 7, Denver, Colo., Brown Palace Hotel; November 8 to 14, Chicago, Ill., Auditorium. Mr. Foss is particularly interested in establishing connections with firms which manufacture mining machinery. Statements regarding his work were published in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for September 25 and September 26, 1917.

EXPORT LICENSES FOR SMALL SHIPMENTS OF SUGAR.

The War Trade Board has ascertained that exporters in the United States are in many cases seeking to take advantage of the regulation permitting the exportation of 25 barrels of sugar or less in any single shipment without requiring individual licenses. It has been known for some time that a few exporters were doing this, and it was thought that this might be prevented by calling the attention of these exporters to the fact that they were making themselves amenable to the law. The practice has not been discontinued, and therefore until otherwise ordered by the board no shipments of sugar, except those destined to Canada and Newfoundland, will be allowed to leave the country without a specific export license for each shipment.

BRITISH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FORMED IN CHILE.

[Consul General L. J. Keena, Valparaiso, Aug. 31.]

The formation of a British Chamber of Commerce for Chile at Valparaiso is discussed in the South Pacific Mail of August 30, 1917. Some of the members of the governing board of the new organization have talked of the possibility of including American business men in this chamber of commerce. Consideration of such a possibility, however, has been deferred until the plans, object, and scope of the present organization shall have been more definitely developed. The newspaper states:

This new enterprise has now commenced operations. After two or three preliminary meetings, the memorandum and articles of association have been drawn up, and an application will shortly be made to the board of trade through the consul general, soliciting incorporation in England. At the preliminary meetings, which were presided over by the consul general, the local council for the first year was nominated. At the last meeting of this council seven men were elected to form the executive committee.

In order to start work free from financial difficulties, many British merchants have joined in forming a foundation fund to meet expenses. Subscribers to this fund will be enrolled as founders, and this distinction is open to all British merchants, companies, and others who wish to support the chamber by giving a donation.

The annual subscription is £10 (\$48.66) for active members, £2 for associates resident in Chile, and £5 for associates resident elsewhere. Associates will enjoy all the benefits and privileges accruing from participation in the chamber, but will not have the right to vote.

The object of the chamber is to develop British trade and protect and further British interests of all kinds in the Republic of Chile. After the war there will doubtless be very keen commercial competition among the nations of the world, and the chamber will do everything possible to assist and increase British trade. By incorporation in England the chamber will have the advantage of the cooperation of similar institutions in England and in all parts of the world. All communications should be addressed to J. E. Martin, Secretary of British Chamber of Commerce, Casilla 329, Valparaiso.

EXPERIMENTS WITH GRAYFISH PRODUCTS.

The United States Bureau of Fisheries has found by means of experiments that there is enough gelatin in grayfish wastes to justify its recovery. The work was done at the bureau's laboratory at Woods Hole. It is estimated that the heads, fins, and tails of the grayfish average about 15 per cent of the total weight, and about 20 per cent of this material after drying is crude gelatin, or about 2 per cent pure gelatin in the wet waste.

Their abundant fat and protein content suggests that the large number of grayfish eggs available should have a considerable commercial value. They are already used in the tanning of hides, and experiments conducted by the bureau in the extracting of acid albumen and egg oil developed a method whereby 29 to 30 per cent egg albumen and 15 per cent egg oil are obtainable. Both products are valuable commercial articles.

Another promising possibility for utilization of grayfish eggs is in commercial clarifying processes. It was found that crude gelatin solutions could be successfully clarified by a small amount of egg material coagulated by heat in the presence of a small quantity of acetic acid. This process was used in the preparation of gelatin from grayfish waste.

GRAPE CROP PROSPECTS IN THE PIEDMONT DISTRICT.

[Consul Joseph Emerson Haven, Turin, Italy, Sept. 10.]

The average production of grapes in the Piedmont district during the period from 1908 to 1916 was 935,440 tons. The output in 1915 was 459,250 tons; in 1916, 940,720 tons; while for 1917 the crop is estimated at 1,037,300 tons.

According to calculations made by the Bureau of Statistics, deducting 29,333 tons usually sold as table fruit, the remaining quantity, 1,007,967 tons, will be used entirely for the production of wine, which, as estimated, ought to give 68 liters per qli. (18 gallons per 220 pounds) for the 1917 production.

In general the quality of the grapes is considered good, with the exception of a few zones in which unfavorable climatic conditions existed, or where insufficient means of disinfection were carried out (owing to high prices of sulphur or sulphate of copper).

Notwithstanding the many difficulties vine cultivators have expended every effort toward the greatest possible care of the vines. Very few cultivators have complained of peronospora, with the result that the grape harvest is looked upon as a very abundant one for both quality and quantity.

Wine Dealers Expect a Decrease in Price—Shortage of Sugar.

In view of the excellent crop and consequent lower prices of grapes, wine dealers expect a fall in the present high prices of wines.

Prices of foods are nowadays not only determined on the abundance or scarcity of same, but principally on the greater or smaller demand in proportion to the amount to be disposed of.

Even though prices of genuine wine are kept high, home demands are very active. There was a considerable increase in the quantity of wine brought into the city of Turin during the first six months of 1917 compared with the corresponding period in 1916.

The increase in the consumption of pure wines is probably due to the lack of southern Italian wines, which, when mixed with water, are especially adaptable for the table as an economical beverage. There will be a shortage in the so-called "second wine" which is largely used by the lower classes, owing to the lack of sugar, forming the principal ingredient in wine of this type.

As these two major factors still exist—lack of sugar and difficult means of transport of southern Italian cheap grapes—the manipulation of wines, either with grape juice and sugar, or chemical powders melted in sugared water, has practically ceased. This latter beverage was being used in increased quantities by the lower classes as a substitute for the wine they had been accustomed to drink during meals, because of its cheapness and similarity to wine in taste and appearance.

Vine Cultivators Await Better Offers.

Large contracts are believed to have been proposed at very high prices on the part of French merchants for the purchase of considerable quantities of grapes and wines, but it is said that both vine cultivators and wine holders will not come to definite agreements, as they await better offers for their products, although some common qualities of grapes have been offered at 5 lire per 10 kilos (\$0.70 per 22 pounds).

Owing also to a new industry which is developing in this district, viz, the production of concentrated grape juice for use in liqueurs and confectionery, it can be appreciated that the very active demands for both grapes and wine are bound to cause a considerable rise in prices.

The success of this year's grape market will also greatly depend on the available means of railroad transport.

RETAIL PRICES OF FOODSTUFFS IN BERGEN.

[Consul Charles Forman, Bergen, Norway, Sept. 18.]

Bergens Aftenblad of September 15, 1917, published information regarding the retail prices of foodstuffs in Bergen. There is a sufficient quantity of meat in the market, although the supply of mutton is not as large as usual. This probably is on account of the poor weather, which has delayed shearing the sheep. The flocks are being brought down from the mountains, and mutton no doubt will become more plentiful from now on. The usual supply of beef is coming in from the eastern part of Norway. Retail prices continue at the same level as for some time past. Beef sells according to cut and quality from 29 to 38.9 cents per pound (2.40 to 3.20 crowns per kilo). Mutton sells from 37.7 to 38.9 cents per pound (3.10 to 3.20 crowns per kilo); veal at 36.5 to 38.9 cents per pound (3 to 3.20 crowns per kilo); goat meat at 32.8 to 34 cents per pound (2.70 to 2.80 crowns per kilo); and pork at 43.7 cents per pound (3.60 crowns per kilo).

Limited Quantities of Fish, Eggs, and Butter.

Fish is rather scarce. Eggs have not advanced in price although the supply is not quite what it has been lately. They are selling at 61 to 64 cents a dozen (3.80 to 4 crowns for 20). The supply of butter is only barely sufficient, but it is expected that it will increase after the dairies on the fiords resume activity. The price of ordinary country butter is 64.4 cents per pound. Potatoes are still selling at \$1.42 to \$1.89 per bushel. Large imported onions cost from 34 to 36.5 cents per pound. Some pears and plums have come in and are selling at a reasonable price. There is a good choice in the purchase of vegetables.

REGULATIONS FOR CRYSTALLIZED SUGAR IN ITALY.

[Vice Consul Quincy F. Roberts, Genoa, Sept. 17.]

The Gazzetta Ufficiale, published at Rome, September 12, 1917, contains a regulation establishing, at not less than 99.5 per cent, the amount of saccharose to be contained in crystallized sugar, the production of which was permitted by a decree of April 26, 1917. Typical samples will be sent to the technical financial offices at the sugar factories to be used as a standard by those offices in judging of the commerciability of the sugar as regards color and granulation. The Commissary General may order that sugar which does not come up to the standard shall be returned, to be reworked.

Lend Your Money to the Government by Purchasing a Four Per Cent Liberty Bond.

POTATO CROPS OF BRITISH COLUMBIA AND NEW BRUNSWICK.

[Consul Geo. N. West, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, Sept. 19.]

The production of vegetables in British Columbia, according to the estimate of B. C. Abbott, the coast market commissiонер, will be considerably in excess of that of last year. But it is said the demand is growing almost faster than the increase and the result is that prices will not be materially affected by the larger crop. Also, owing to economic and weather conditions, it is not expected that there will be any more potatoes in the Province at the beginning of the year than there was last winter on the same date, although the acreage planted increased 2,700 acres this season.

There are several reasons for the increased crop not remaining to do full benefit to the Vancouver or British Columbia householder. American buyers have been actively purchasing British Columbia tubers. The fact that last season's potato supply expired before the new crop came in and caused a resultant demand on new green potatoes affected the fall harvest to the extent of the consumption of green potatoes, which was considerable. Then early June rains and a long period of dry weather hurt the crop.

Output of This Year's Crop.

Potatoes are the leading vegetable produced by British Columbia farmers and truck gardeners. The potato crop of 1915, the latest Government report, was 72,454 tons. The present crop is estimated at 125,000 tons. One can gain some idea of the export demand when it is learned that 50,000 bushels, or 3,000,000 pounds, were recently sold in Seattle at \$40 a ton. The tuber was the money-maker four and five years ago when it brought \$20 a ton.

It is reported that beets, parsnips, and cabbages are scarce this year, but onions will show an increase. Some slight increase is looked for in field tomatoes, which are in good shape this year.

[Consul E. Verne Richardson, Moncton, New Brunswick, Canada, Sept. 13.]

Discouraging Outlook for New Brunswick's Potato Crop.

Latest reports from the various potato-producing areas of New Brunswick, many of which lie within the limits of the Moncton consular district, are decidedly discouraging. Earlier in the season it was freely expressed that this year's potato yield would be much greater than that of previous years, a fact which was noted in COMMERCE REPORTS of August 31. Later, however, unfavorable conditions developed rapidly. It has been found almost impossible, in many instances, to control or restrict the ravages of blight. Excessive rains and humidity during the early stages of development made precautionary spraying largely ineffectual. Retarded growth resulting from blight followed by rust and rot has left the crop seriously depleted. One investigator reports that it is not unusual to turn out a succession of hills without finding a single marketable potato. Another instance is that of a well-known producer who planted 60 acres in potatoes, anticipating a yield of 7,000 barrels. He now reports that although his field was given every possible care and attention, he can not see more than 2,500 bushels total yield.

Financial Side of the Question.

Summarizing the difficulties that face the New Brunswick potato production this season, a local publication gives the following details of cost of production under present conditions:

It costs just twice as much to raise a barrel of potatoes to-day compared with two years ago. It costs the producer \$12 more for a ton of fertilizer than it did before the war, and fertilizer is quite an essential element in potato production. The seed that formerly cost \$2 a barrel could not be purchased at planting time this year for less than \$8. In the case of bug poisons and Bordeaux mixtures, the elements entering into their composition increased in price to a degree in keeping with the advance in seed. Then there is the advance in all lines of machinery needed in potato cultivation. Potato diggers that formerly sold for \$100 cost now \$140; planters jumped from \$80 to \$100. Labor is at least a third higher this year than formerly.

Taking all these facts into consideration, the producer must have a yield of 100 barrels to the acre and must be assured of \$2 per barrel to break anywhere near even. They are not getting that yield, and the outlook for much of an increase of over \$2 in price is surely not encouraging.

Views of Local Farmers.

The writer, in order to get further direct evidence of the present unsatisfactory outlook for the potato crop of the Province, has interviewed several producers and others directly interested. A Kent County farmer states that there is every reason to believe that the crop in his immediate neighborhood will be far below instead of far above the average, despite the promise of the earlier weeks of the season. A dealer who operates extensively in Kings County, with Anagance as his headquarters, predicts that many of the fields in his district will not be worth harvesting, and will probably be plowed under. In this view he is supported by a neighboring operator from Petitcodiac, Westmoreland County.

It is possible that the ultimate returns of the potato crop may not justify the present feelings of pessimism, but, as one dealer expresses it, "it is hard to detect any signs of such an outcome."

FIRST FORECAST OF INDIA'S SUGAR YIELD FOR 1917-18.

The Indian Department of Statistics has issued its first memorandum on the sugar-cane crop of 1917-18, basing its calculations upon reports received from Provinces that contain 95.3 per cent of the area under cane in British India. As given in the Indian (Government) Trade Journal for August 24, the total area is estimated at 2,442,000 acres, as against 2,242,000 acres a year ago, or an increase of 9 per cent. (Madras, containing 3.8 per cent of the total, has been excluded from this forecast.)

The present estimate, as compared with that at the corresponding date of last year, shows an increase of 24 per cent in the Punjab, 15 per cent in Bombay and Sind, 10 per cent in the United Provinces, and 9 per cent in the Central Provinces and Berar. On the other hand, Bengal and the Northwest Frontier Province show a decrease of 6 per cent each, Assam 3 per cent, and Bihar and Orissa 2 per cent.

Weather conditions at sowing time were favorable, and prospects of the crop are so far good.

IMITATION LEATHER IN SOUTH AMERICA.**CHILE.**

[Consul General L. J. Keena, Valparaiso.]

The market for imitation leather in Chile is practically confined to those grades made for furniture upholstery. There is no automobile industry here, and only a very few motor-car bodies are built in the country. Those produced here are principally of a sporting "torpedo" type, which requires a minimum amount of upholstery. The manufacture of trunks, suit cases, etc., is very limited. No demand exists for an imitation leather to be used in bookbinding. Without doubt all of these markets can be improved by a full and persistent presentation of the merits of imitation leathers.

Trade Extension Through Importing Houses.

As even in the furniture line the demand for imitation leather is light, and the individual furniture manufacturers do not operate on a scale which would require them to purchase any large quantities of this material, it appears that the best method of handling the product in the local market is through an importing and jobbing house which can bring out stock and sell it in the small parcels demanded by the local manufacturers.

A local manufacturers' agent states that in his opinion a line of imitation leather could properly be handled only by having stock in the country for immediate delivery. His opinion was based on practical experience with certain American goods of this class.

If an advertising campaign were started in Chile it would have to be of a general publicity type in order to get the ultimate consumer to demand a certain brand of imitation leather. The number of furniture houses using such goods in quantities worth considering would be too small to warrant anything more than direct circular advertising. In the opinion of this office the benefits of general publicity advertising in this market would not be proportionate to the expense involved, since any type of imitation leather can not be expected to enjoy more than a limited sale here for some years. The amount of upholstered furniture in general demand is small, the idea of comfort in chairs being Spanish rather than American or British.

Work to Be Done Through Salesman.

Instead of publicity work it is suggested that any American manufacturer of imitation leather who wishes to obtain the fullest possible sale of his line in Chile would get the best results by establishing his own salesman in the country to work exclusively for that line in connection with the importing house that holds the general agency, which should carry stock for immediate delivery. The expense of a special representative probably would be less than that involved in a general publicity campaign, and direct results would be more certain. On the later reports of such a representative the company would be properly and fully informed as to the benefits to be derived from any type of advertising.

No imitation leather is made in this country. The United States is the present source of supply. The best known and best selling brand of imitation leather in this market is an American product, and

no other brand is so acceptable as this one because of its local reputation with the trade.

As the Chilean customhouse statistics show no separate division for imitation leathers, it is not possible to determine the quantity imported in any given year. From general inquiry, however, it is learned that a large proportion of the medium grades of imitation leather and the greater part of the higher grades imported into Chile are sold either directly or through its agents by one company. A sample sent to this office was presented to the general customhouse at Valparaiso and was classified by the appraiser as oilcloth or waxed cloth, not otherwise specified, for table covers, furniture, etc. (par. No. 695 of the Tariff of 1916), with a duty of 0.25 peso gold per kilo, gross weight (equivalent to \$0.0415 United States currency per pound).

Protection of Trade Rights.

As a protective measure trade-marks should be registered in Chile. Patents might also be applied for, but as the market is small it is improbable that there would be any infringement on patent rights, particularly as there is little chance that the manufacture of imitation leather will be developed in Chile as an export industry.

Packing for this coast should be particularly designed to prevent damage from the rough handling incidental to transshipment from steamer to lighter, and from lighter to wharf, and with a view to the prevention of sweating in passage through the Tropics. The package should therefore be more or less moisture proof and preferably should be crated to avoid any damage from the slings used in unloading merchandise.

[A list of dealers and importers in Valparaiso and Santiago with whom manufacturers of imitation leather might correspond on this subject may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 90705.]

PERU.

[Consul General William W. Handley, Callao-Lima.]

There is not a large demand in Peru for imitation leather of any kind, principally because of the small number of manufacturing concerns. During 1913, a normal year, the imports of this class of material were valued at \$3,371, about 50 per cent of which came from Germany and 30 per cent from Great Britain. The imports into Peru during 1914 were valued at \$1,202, and in 1915 at \$1,225. Great Britain has supplied most of this material during the last two years. The value of these imports from the United States in 1915 was \$305.

Under article 2583 of the Peruvian customs tariff, imitation leather pays a duty of 32 centavos (about \$0.15 United States currency) a kilo, gross weight. An inferior grade of imitation leather is classified under article 2582, and pays 24 centavos a kilo (about \$0.12 United States currency).

Principal Users of the Material.

The principal users of imitation leather in Peru are the Ferrocarril Central del Peru, Lima; the Empresas Electricas Asociadas, Lima; the Cerro de Pasco Railway Co., Lima; and the Cia. de Sombreros

"El Fenix," Lima. A list of representative importers of this and similar material is forwarded. In dealing with them it is advisable to use the Spanish language and submit samples and prices, f. o. b. United States port.

One of the principal importing firms in Lima, which handles a cheaper grade of this material, informed the American consulate that it imported goods principally from Manchester, England, through its Paris agent. The Ferrocarril Central del Peru purchases such material through the Peruvian Corporation (Ltd.), of Lima and London. This corporation owns or controls about 80 per cent of the railways of the Republic.

The market here appears to be for the cheaper grades. With the majority of the merchants the price instead of the quality largely controls the sales. A discount for cash from 2 to 12½ per cent is offered by the European manufacturers.

[The list of importers mentioned in this report may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 89903.]

URUGUAY.

[Consul William Dawson, Montevideo.]

As imitation leather is essentially a raw product for use in manufacturing industries, and Uruguay is not highly developed from an industrial standpoint, the possible demand for such a product is naturally somewhat limited. Only three of the industries which might use imitation leather are of sufficient importance here to offer even a potential market of any volume. These are the manufacture of furniture and shoes and bookbinding. Even the furniture and shoe factories do not have large outputs when measured by American standards.

Any demand for imitation leather to be used for boat and automobile upholstery, suit cases and traveling bags, leather novelties, and art goods would be merely occasional.

Amounts Used for Furniture.

A very liberal estimate of the quantities used by Uruguayan furniture factories would put the total at not over one hundred 50 or 60 yard rolls of various kinds per year. The buyer of a leading factory states that his concern does not use more than a dozen rolls, and that he doubts if the country's consumption for furniture alone exceeds 50 rolls. This concern considers imitation leather unsatisfactory for any but cheap work, and claims that it can not be folded without cracking or fraying at the fold after short use. It states that in spite of the increased price of leather the use of imitations has not been extended, and it is inclined to believe that it will not show material growth unless imitations become appreciably cheaper. This firm has been paying from 5 to 5.50 pesos (\$5.17 to \$5.69) per square meter (1.196 square yards) for a good grade of leather, and the equivalent of 1 peso (\$1.03) per square meter for imitations, and apparently does not consider this difference sufficient to counterbalance the inferior quality.

Leather furniture to a certain extent is looked upon as a luxury, and people buying it are prepared to pay a good price for a good

article. The demand for it at present is not large. It should be noted, however, that while information from the local manufacturers would indicate a very sparing use of imitation leather, a leading hotel and a club at Montevideo both contain furniture on which imitation leather has been quite extensively used.

Upholstered Vehicles for Country Use.

This product is used to a limited extent for upholstering vehicles, especially for country use. A dealer in carriage makers' supplies estimates the annual consumption for this purpose at about 10 rolls. For tops of vehicles a sort of imitation patent leather called here "hule" (oilcloth) is extensively used. It is stated that it comes chiefly from England.

Imitation leather of the varieties used by furniture and carriage makers has been on the market here for a number of years. Before the war it came from the United States, England, and Germany, and dealers and consumers state that there was little difference in price and quality between the products of the three countries. Competition was and still is very keen, and one furniture manufacturer states that he refuses three or four offers every month.

The product has not yet been used at Montevideo for footwear. Shoe factories do not appear to have been solicited as actively as furniture factories. One bootmaker claims never to have heard of imitation leather before the war. He recently gave a trial order and is going to use the material for uppers, but is very skeptical, and does not think that it will give good results.

This material might find a small market here in connection with the production of sweatbands, although it does not appear to have been used by hat factories thus far. One agent believes that with suitable samples this trade could be developed.

German and English Competition.

A bookbinding establishment at Montevideo states that 15 years ago an American firm sent here an imitation leather for bindings and had control of the market. Two or three years later the Germans appeared with a superior article which was also cheaper and drove the American factory out of the field. English firms also introduced products which were better and cheaper than the American, but not as cheap as the German. Before the war Germany and England were getting the market. Since the elimination of the Germans, England has been the chief source of supply.

It is very difficult to estimate the demand for artificial leather for bookbinding. It is ordered with other supplies, and it is not easy to draw the line between imitation leather properly speaking and a bookbinder's cloth which looks more or less like leather. It is safe to say that the consumption is relatively larger than that of imitation leather for other purposes. One bookbinder states that before the war a German product which was a real imitation leather and not merely cloth cost from 60 to 70 pfennigs (14.3 to 16.7 cents) per meter, while a similar grade from the United States cost 25 to 30 cents per yard (both prices f. o. b. port of shipment). Bookbinders report that German imitation leather is preferred by bookbinders because it is drier and less greasy, holds the glue better, and has practically no odor.

Trade Requires Personal Work.

Imitation leather is sold by supply houses which import directly for sale to consumers, and also by commission agents in Montevideo and Buenos Aires who place orders with consumers. Sale through commission agents seems to be the more common practice. The agent places the order, but the goods are shipped by the exporter direct to the purchaser and billed to him. Supply houses which do a general importing business in one or more lines frequently buy through some New York export commission house.

The market is very well supplied. Several American makes already are well known. Some of them have been offered either by letter or through an agent to practically all the leading consumers. Under such circumstances it is obvious that personal work is required, and that it will not be easy to introduce a new make.

One of the difficulties complained of by a local agent is that the market for many kinds of these goods is so small that it does not pay to carry a stock, and this deprives agents of a certain amount of casual short-order business.

Advertising Products Through Users.

There are no trade papers here representing industries which use this article, and it is not one in which the general public would be interested. An active agent would undoubtedly find many ways of advertising his products through users.

Imitation leather is classified with oilcloth, that of double thickness or japanned being dutiable under Item 3455 at 45 per cent, including surtaxes, on an official valuation of 0.50 peso per meter of width, or \$0.47 per yard, while that of single thickness has an official valuation of 0.25 peso per square meter, the equivalent duty being \$0.097 per square yard. There are also various customs charges which amount to about 1 peso (\$1.03) for a package of 4 cubic feet weighing 100 kilos (220 pounds). These duties and charges are applicable to imitation leather imported from all countries. There are no conventional or preferential rates.

As Uruguay is not a manufacturing country it should not be necessary to seek patent protection here for an article of this class, but the trade-mark, as a rule, should be protected.

The generally recognized credit terms at Montevideo may be said to be 90 days from the arrival of merchandise. Before the war there were European houses which were still more liberal, but many local firms are now compelled to meet terms which are far more exacting. Most of the importers of good standing are prepared at present to pay cash on the arrival of the goods, especially if afforded an opportunity to inspect the merchandise before taking up the draft.

Requirements After the War.

It is believed that after a return to normal conditions some credit facilities will have to be granted in order to hold the trade. A demand for cash in advance is complied with only in exceptional instances and causes criticism. Trade is financed through banks to which drafts with documents attached may be sent for collection. The National City Bank of New York has a branch at Montevideo, as have several foreign banks represented by agents or correspondents in New York.

No special packing is required for imitation leather shipped here. It is usually forwarded in rolls packed in wooden cases, which should be sufficiently strong to stand rough handling.

As a rule, correspondence intended for Montevideo firms should be in Spanish.

[Lists of importers, commission agents, and consumers of imitation leather at Montevideo which accompany this report may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 91226. Firms known to be representing American manufacturers of imitation leather on an exclusive basis have not been included.]

TRADE CONDITIONS IN MARACAIBO.

[Consul Emil Sauer, Maracaibo, Venezuela, Sept. 3.]

The value of the declared exports from Maracaibo, Venezuela, to the United States during the first six months of 1917 amounted to \$4,552,423, as compared with \$4,359,172 for the corresponding period of 1916, an increase of \$193,251. The following table gives the value of the principal articles shipped to the United States:

Articles.	Jan.-June, 1916.	Jan.-June, 1917.	Articles.	Jan. June, 1916.	Jan. June, 1917.
Cacao.....	\$92,548	\$82,609	Wood:		
Coffee.....	3,611,068	3,311,917	Fustic.....	\$12,633	.....
Copalba.....	19,906	25,172	Zapalero.....	2,740	\$10,786
Divi-divi.....	82,025	16,489	Wool.....	3,301	3,760
Fish sounds.....	16,429	27,040	All other articles.....	9,953	17,163
Elides.....	251,080	303,243			
Skins, goat.....	41,597	103,508	Total.....	4,359,172	4,552,423
Sugar.....	216,492	650,736			

Exports of Coffee, Cacao, and Divi-divi.

The shipments of coffee, which before 1917 made up 85 to 90 per cent of the total exports to the United States, decreased from \$3,611,068 to \$3,311,917, a loss of almost \$500,000, or 10 per cent. This is accounted for mainly by the decreased value, as the quantity shipped was only 3½ per cent less. The decline in the price, of course, discouraged exportation, and on June 30, 1917, there were stored in Maracaibo approximately 246,000 bags of coffee, worth nearly \$3,000,000.

The value of the cacao exports dropped from \$92,548 during the first six months of 1916 to \$82,609 during the same months of 1917, due to crop shortage. The price remained favorable.

The exports of divi-divi dropped from \$82,025 to \$16,489. This was due to crop failure, caused by excessive rains and to damage by birds. The crop prospects for 1917 appear much better, but it is likely that high ocean freight rates will tend to discourage exportation to the United States. A movement is under way to erect a factory in Venezuela to extract the tannin from divi-divi and to export the extracts, thereby saving freight. [See COMMERCE REPORTS for Aug. 9, 1917.]

The Trade in Sugar and Other Articles.

The exports of sugar increased from \$216,492 during the first six months of 1916 to \$650,736 for the same period of 1917.

There have been in existence in the district around Lake Maracaibo a considerable number of small mills which produce a dark sugar,

called papelon, put up in blocks similar to maple sugar in the United States and Canada. Very little sugar of this kind appears to have been exported. After the beginning of the war and the subsequent rise in prices, four factories were built on the east side of Lake Maracaibo, 80 to 100 miles from Maracaibo City. These produce a centrifugal sugar, almost white, 96 to 97 degrees, which is being exported and which accounts for the recent heavy growth in the sugar exports to the United States.

The exports of copaiba, or sap of the copaiba tree, used in making a medicine, increased from \$19,906 to \$25,172 in the two periods named. The tapping season lasts from October to June.

The exports of fish sounds increased from \$16,429 to \$27,040. Shipments of the article continue throughout the year, but the heaviest exportation takes place from January to June.

The quantity of hides exported to the United States decreased somewhat, but the value for the two periods increased from \$251,080 in 1916 to \$303,243 for the same period of 1917, or 20 per cent, due to the rise in the price.

Shipment of Indian Corn to United States.

In August, for the first time, Indian corn was exported from Maracaibo to the United States. Three shipments were made, consisting of 100, 1,000, and 400 bags. All of this corn was sent on consignment, and these shipments are said to be only experiments. However, several merchants here have taken active steps to encourage the raising of Indian corn in the district around Lake Maracaibo. Two crops can be raised per annum, as there is no frost, and it is estimated that the average annual yield is 40 bushels per acre. Though this yield seems small, yet the cheapness of the land on which the corn is raised and the limited amount of labor expended in cultivating it should make corn raising very profitable, especially now when prices are high.

Increased Business Activity Predicted.

Development of the sugar, coal, and petroleum industries will necessarily result in increased commercial activity and afford opportunity for the investment of foreign capital in this district. The next 5 to 10 years will undoubtedly see a large increase in the wealth and in the foreign trade of this district. Capital should, however, not be invested precipitately, either in existing or in newly proposed establishments, but first all the factors that must enter into consideration should be carefully studied and considered. This applies particularly to the sugar industry, where costly mistakes of management appear to have been made.

OFFICES OF THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE.

DISTRICT OFFICES.

NEW YORK: 734 Customhouse.
BOSTON: 1801 Customhouse.
CHICAGO: 504 Federal Building.
ST. LOUIS: 402 Third National Bank Building.
NEW ORLEANS: 1020 Hibernia Bank Building.
SAN FRANCISCO: 807 Customhouse.
SEATTLE: 848 Henry Building.

COOPERATIVE OFFICES.

CLEVELAND: Chamber of Commerce.
CINCINNATI: Chamber of Commerce.
CINCINNATI: General Freight Agent, Southern Railway, 96 Ingalls Building.
LOS ANGELES: Chamber of Commerce.
PHILADELPHIA: Chamber of Commerce.
CHATTANOOGA: South American Agent, Southern Railway System.
PORTLAND, OREG.: Chamber of Commerce.
DAYTON: Greater Dayton Association.

EXPORTS OF AMERICAN-MADE DYESTUFFS FROM UNITED STATES.

The new classification used since the beginning of the current fiscal year by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce in its monthly statements of domestic exports shows separately for the first time the item of aniline dyes. For the month of July the shipments of American-made aniline dyes from the United States to foreign countries amounted in value to \$497,106.

Of all the industries created or developed as a direct result of war conditions, none has shown more rapid progress than American dyestuffs. From only seven establishments, in which 528 people were engaged in producing 6,619,729 pounds of coal-tar colors, valued at \$1,126,699 in 1914, the industry has developed until now it not only supplies the domestic demand for colors, but has even invaded the foreign market in European neutral and allied countries—Canada, Mexico, Argentina, Brazil, British India, and Japan, as the following table discloses:

Articles, and countries to which exported.	July—		Seven months ending July—		
	1916	1917	1915	1916	1917
Dyes and dyestuffs.....	\$687,555		\$1,270,251	\$4,084,343	\$7,153,689
Aniline dyes.....		\$497,106			\$497,106
Logwood extract.....		205,024			205,024
All other.....		576,579			576,579
Total, dyes and dyestuffs.....	687,555	1,278,709	1,270,251	4,084,343	8,432,398
Exported to—					
France.....	30,139	203,691	18,152	237,558	505,784
Italy.....	29,682	66,854	237,682	610,531	1,103,900
Russia in Europe.....	56,876		5,922	333,994	57,683
Spain.....	22,031	100,170	13,814	175,586	779,497
United Kingdom.....	128,758	363,527	429,187	483,458	1,924,325
Canada.....	135,442	80,551	347,733	1,180,655	997,337
Mexico.....	2,689	34,729	413	99,997	413,114
Argentina.....	22,696	43,610	25,400	134,457	214,941
Brazil.....	30,820	152,414	3,862	95,080	954,109
British India.....		117,608	5,577	93,048	408,750
Japan.....	27,924	36,156	98,244	132,863	416,239
Other countries.....	200,518	79,399	79,285	497,416	656,719

^a Figures cover period from Jan. 1 to June 30, 1917.

^b July only.

No other article of commerce more vitally affects a greater number of industries than do coal-tar dyes, and very few articles rival them in complexity of manufacture. At the outbreak of the war the difficulties in the way of soon providing adequate domestic supplies seemed insurmountable; yet in the short space of three years scores of plants covering many acres of ground have been erected; numerous by-product coke ovens have been equipped to furnish the necessary raw materials; thousands of workmen have been trained; special machinery has been designed, built, and installed; hundreds of chemists and chemical engineers have given their entire time to the unfamiliar work connected with color production; experimental research has been inaugurated for perfecting processes and machinery and the possible discovery of new colors; organization, consolidations, and alliances have been effected within the industry to further increase output at decreased cost; and it is understood in the trade that plans are under way for entering foreign markets on a large scale.

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the Bureau and its district and cooperative offices. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and state opportunity number. The Bureau does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases. Symbols: * Reported by American consular officers; † Reported by commercial attachés and commercial agents; ‡ Direct inquiries received by the Bureau.

In considering the following "opportunities" special regard should be had to the laws and regulations governing export licenses and trading with the enemy.

Belting, leather.....	25617.	Furnishings, men's.....	25618
Boots and shoes.....	25618	Grinding machines.....	25620
Desks, school.....	25624	Leather goods.....	25618
Drugs and chemicals.....	25622	Machinery.....	25621
Dry goods.....	25618	Nails.....	25623
Fishing supplies.....	25619	Paints.....	25622
Foodstuffs.....	25618	Wearing apparel.....	25616

25616.†—A woman who has just arrived from Brazil, and who is to remain in the United States for a short time, desires to represent, on a commission basis, American manufacturers and exporters of women's fine wearing apparel, such as gowns, lingerie, silk underclothing, hosiery, etc. Correspondence may be in English. References.

25617.*—A company in India desires to purchase leather belting. It also wishes to entertain an agency proposition for the sale of such belting. Payment will be made by cash against documents at destination. Correspondence may be in English. Reference.

25618.†—A member of a firm in British Guiana who will be in New York for about 15 days desires to secure agencies on a commission basis for the sale of dry goods, leather goods, boots and shoes, men's furnishings, and foodstuffs. References.

25619.*—The manager of a fishing and canning company desires to purchase all kinds of materials used in deep-sea fishing, such as blocks and tackle, nets, hemp and wire rope, anchors, buoys, etc. Catalogues, price lists, etc., should be submitted. Quotations should be made f. o. b. New York. Cash will be paid. Correspondence may be in English.

25620.†—A manufacturer in Japan desires to be placed in communication with American manufacturers and exporters of grinding machines for surgical instruments. Reference.

25621.*—A man in Mexico is in the market for a complete line of machinery necessary for the manufacture of glycerin. Correspondence may be in English.

25622.†—The representative of a firm in Canada wishes to be placed in communication with American manufacturers and exporters of dry paints, drugs, and chemicals, with a view to securing agencies for the sale of same. All business is desired on a commission basis. References.

25623.*—A company in China desires to purchase or secure an agency for the sale of wire nails. Quotations should be made f. o. b. port of shipment and estimate of ocean charges. Full information should be submitted. Payment will be made by sight draft against documents or 60 days' credit. Correspondence may be in English. References.

25624.†—The directors of a new public school in Ecuador desire to purchase about 300 school desks, double desks being preferred, with pressed-steel frames instead of the cast-iron type. Catalogues should be submitted as soon as possible. Correspondence should be in Spanish.

25625.*—A firm in India is in the market for cereals and breakfast foods. Quotations should be made f. o. b. port of shipment. Payment will be made against documents. Reference.

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THE 1917-18 TOBACCO CROP OF OLD GREECE.

[Consul General Alexander W. Weddell, Athens, Aug. 8.]

Although earlier forecasts on this year's tobacco crop were optimistic, owing to the great area planted as a direct result of the high prices prevailing last year, lack of rain during the past two months has caused a serious falling off in the probable amount of the crop, as far as an excess production was anticipated.

The quality of the plants remains excellent, and very high prices are anticipated, both on account of the high level set in prices during last year and because of the fact that it is reported that several large combinations are in the field endeavoring to secure a larger proportion of the crop, and competition is expected to be keen.

A rough estimate of the probable yield and prices of tobacco in the various Provinces is given below:

District.	Probable yield.	Expected prices.	District.	Probable yield.	Expected prices.
	Pounds.	Per pound.		Pounds.	Per pound.
Argos.....	11,286,000	\$0.34-\$0.41	Thessaly-Lamia.....	25,393,500	\$0.62-\$0.68
Agrinion.....	4,232,250	.68-.75	Islands.....	11,286,000	.55-.68
Domestic consumption...	7,053,750	.48-.55	Other sources.....	2,821,150	.68-1.03

MANUFACTURE OF STAINLESS STEEL FOR CUTLERY PROHIBITED.

[Consul John M. Savage, Sheffield, England, Sept. 26.]

A regulation issued to manufacturers of steel in Great Britain states that in view of the difficulties in getting supplies of ferrochrome the use of the same in connection with the manufacture of stainless steel for cutlery purposes is prohibited from August 31, 1917. Ferrochrome must only be used in connection with high-speed, crucible carbon steel and alloy steel, and in the case of the latter only, where a priority certificate or other permit number has been obtained which will warrant the manufacture of the steel in question.

EXPORTS FROM LONDON TO UNITED STATES FOR NINE MONTHS.

[Consul General Robert P. Skinner, London, England, Oct. 1.]

The total value of the declared exports from London to the United States for the nine months ended September, 1917, was \$108,853,760, compared with \$120,676,332 in the same period in 1916. The principal articles comprised in the aggregates were:

Articles.	Nine months ended September—		Articles.	Nine months ended September—	
	1916	1917		1916	1917
Rubber.....	\$28,348,145	\$30,451,586	Furs.....	\$4,737,624	\$5,097,827
Precious stones.....	14,433,084	13,218,484	Tea.....	3,861,409	747,658
Tin.....	8,086,376	8,860,261	Indigo.....	2,540,440	1,121,838
Art.....	5,678,241	4,272,878	Wool.....	1,262,267	929,047
Hides.....	4,682,463	2,641,630			

Rubber exports to the United States during September aggregated \$834,467, a slight increase on August; precious stones, \$1,260,615; and tin, \$679,704, both articles showing slight gains; art, \$168,507; hides, \$30,345, or only one-tenth the August total; furs, \$214,034, a falling off of \$140,000; indigo, \$93,589, compared with \$15,122; wool, \$15,088, as against \$6,356; while only one shipment of tea was made, valued at \$948.

INDUSTRIAL CENSUS OF FRANCE.

[Commercial Attaché C. W. A. Veditz, Paris, Sept. 15.]

Among the important measures proposed by the French Government in the preparation for industrial reorganization after the war, is an industrial census, which it is proposed to make obligatory and very detailed and comprehensive. The details of the project are likely to be worked out by the newly created Economic Committee of the Government, recently established by decree, and comprising Paul Domeur, Minister without Portfolio, the Minister of Commerce, the Minister of Agriculture, the Minister of Colonies, the Minister of Transport, the Minister of Munitions, and the Minister of Provisionment. The Minister of Commerce will take part in the deliberations of this committee whenever they affect his department.

The purpose of the industrial census is to determine the nature and number of industrial machines, the extent and character of industrial equipment, and available supplies of industrial materials. There has, however, been considerable opposition to the proposed census, coming chiefly from chambers of commerce and manufacturers' associations. Objection is particularly raised to the obligatory feature of the project, on the ground that article 55 of the new income-tax law specifically authorizes the tax officials to make use of information obtained by any branch of the public service under existing laws.

Market for Knocked-Down Furniture in Ecuador.

A special agent of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce has transmitted the name of a person in a city of Ecuador who is interested in knocked-down furniture. The name of the inquirer, correspondence with whom can be in English, can be obtained at the bureau or its district or cooperative offices by referring to file No. 1296.

THE GREEK CURRANT CROP.

[Consul A. B. Cooke, Patras, Sept. 15.]

The Greek currant crop has now been entirely harvested and stored without damage from rains in any Province. The weather has been unusually favorable to currant growers.

Growers were fearful in the spring that the crop would suffer from the ravages of peronospora and oidium, the two great enemies to the vineyards. Fortunately, the weather was unfavorable to development of the former, and so the crop suffered but little from that source. Oidium, however, caused considerable damage in the absence of sulphur with which to combat it; and reports from all currant-growing districts indicate that the fruit shows the effect of this disease both in quality and quantity.

Estimate of the Crop—Prospects for Marketing.

The crop of 1917-18 is now conservatively estimated at about 140,000 tons of 2,240 pounds each. There are also available at this writing 10,000 to 15,000 tons of old crop. The fruit of all districts is reported to be of medium good quality.

The local market is just now very unstable, owing to great uncertainty as to how the export crop will be handled. Ocean freights are above all record. Quotations current to-day to Liverpool are 650 shillings (\$158) per ton exclusive of insurance and war risk. Quotations current to New York are now 600 shillings (\$146) per ton exclusive of insurance and war risk. In the face of these freight rates and the great lack of tonnage to handle fruit even at these prices, local shippers are uncertain about negotiating for sales abroad.

A report on the local currant market says that the British Government is negotiating for purchases of fruit up to 40,000 tons. It is stated that the government will send here representatives to purchase fruit, which will be shipped under control of the government and at its risk.

This will leave something more than 100,000 tons of fruit to be disposed of. Shippers hope to make at least fair sales to the American market, though they are frank to say that high cost of fruit here and higher freight rates will put the Greek fruit at a great disadvantage on the American market as compared with prices of California fruit.

Large Consumption for Wine and Alcohol—Previous Seasons' Exports.

Local interests, however, are far from discouraged at the prospect. They state that if the foreign markets take even approximately half the crop the remainder can be disposed of on domestic markets, where there is a good demand at fair prices for wine and alcohol manufacture. The market, however, is very sluggish just now.

The privileged company has issued a printed statement of currants exported during the years 1914-15, 1915-16, and 1916-17. According to this statement the total exports of currants from Greece for these three years were, respectively, 221,859,409, 209,023,018, and 107,567,801 Venetian pounds (1.05 English pounds).

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IMPORTS OF BUILDING STONES INTO AUSTRALIA.

[Consul General J. I. Brittain, Sydney.]

Australia's imports of building stones, including marble and granite, are very small. The imports of stone of all descriptions for the year ended June 30, 1915, were less than \$500,000, and of this about \$120,000 represented marble and other stones from Italy. Since the beginning of the war, these importations have steadily diminished, because sufficient stone is produced in New South Wales and other States of the Commonwealth, and because of the scarcity of ships.

The State of New South Wales is rich in quarries of building stones within easy access to the chief commercial center, Sidney. There are quarries of marble, granite, and of light-yellowish sandstone suitable for building purposes. This yellowish stone is used extensively for building purposes, and for tombstones. A few persons use the fine marble for tombstones and mausoleums, but the memorials in cemeteries are still of great simplicity. Granite is used very little, and chiefly as surbases of the newer business buildings. There are very few buildings of white marble, and the public buildings are nearly all of Australian sandstone.

The machinery used in the quarries in New South Wales is of both American and British manufacture, and American manufacturers should at the present time find a profitable field here.

[A list of marble and monumental masons and importers and a list of quarry owners in Sydney may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district or cooperative offices by referring to file No. 85061.]

ITALY ESTABLISHES COMMITTEE ON COTTON INDUSTRY.

[Vice Consul Quincy F. Roberts, Genoa, Sept. 7.]

The Gazzetta Ufficiale, published at Rome, August 29, 1917, contains a decree instituting for the duration of the war and for six months after the conclusion of peace, at the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Labor, the Central Committee of the Cotton Industry. Its scope is to facilitate the supply of raw material; to regulate production in a manner to insure in time, at just prices, the satisfaction of the needs of the Army and those of the civil population; and to see that such measures are taken as are necessary to maintain the exports so far as possible, because they represent a national interest.

Cotton Associations to be Represented.

The committee will be constituted by a decree of the Ministers of War, and of Industry, Commerce and Labor, and will be composed of State and military officials belonging to the Ministries of Industry, of War, of the Navy, and of Arms and Ammunition, and representatives of the cotton associations and various groups of that industry.

In the budget of the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Labor has been established a fund of 50,000 lire (\$9,650 at par of exchange) for the expense of executing the decree, excluding the costs of furnishing raw material and products. The administrations interested will provide for those.

FEWER BANKRUPTCIES IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.

[London Economist, Sept. 22.]

The report by the inspector general in bankruptcy on the working of the bankruptcy act in 1916 shows that the total number of receiving orders in England and Wales in that year was 1,557, as compared with 2,379 in 1915, involving losses to creditors estimated at £2,396,700 (\$11,663,550), or £955,800 (\$4,651,400) less than in the previous year. The number of deeds under the deeds of arrangement act was 1,050, or 602 less, the estimated loss to creditors under this head being £1,014,400 (\$4,936,575), as against £1,466,500 (\$7,136,725) in 1915.

No particulars of Scottish deeds of arrangement are obtainable, the registration of trust deeds not being obligatory. Sequestrations in Scotland numbered 126, with liabilities amounting to £255,000 (\$1,240,950) and assets to £69,300 (\$337,250). In 1915 there were 199 sequestrations, with liabilities £423,600 (\$2,061,450) and assets £101,500 (\$493,950).

In Ireland the total number of bankruptcies was 70, as against 106, with liabilities £68,400 (\$332,875) against £84,000 (\$408,775), and assets £24,400 (\$118,750) against £29,000 (\$141,125).

NINE MONTHS' IMPORTS OF OIL SEEDS INTO HULL.

[Consul Homer M. Byington, Hull, England, Oct. 3.]

Imports of oil seeds for the year 1917 up to October 2, compared with the corresponding period of 1916, were as follows, according to the Hull Chamber of Commerce:

Oilseed.	1916	1917	Oilseed.	1916	1917
Linseed.....quarters...	972, 270	350, 806	Soya beans.....tons...	57, 255	13, 890
Rapeseed.....do.....	149, 919	150, 952	Palm kernels.....do....	43, 195	39, 728
Castor beans.....do....	152, 143	106, 774	Oil cake.....do.....	27, 875	25, 560
Cotton seed:					
Egyptian.....tons...	88, 016	96, 963			
Bombay.....do.....	56, 440	14, 583			

NOTE.—Linseed in quarters of 410, 416, and 424 pounds; rapeseed in quarters of 416 and 424 pounds; 5.38 quarters of castor seed are equal to a long ton; the ton equals 2,240 pounds.

NEW GOVERNMENTAL DEPARTMENT IN HOLLAND.

[Commercial Attaché Erwin W. Thompson, The Hague, Sept. 16.]

The Minister van Landbouw, Nijverheid en Handel, has added a fourth Department, to be called the "Department of Crisis Affairs," to the three Departments that already exist, i. e., the Departments of Agriculture, Industry, and Commerce. The new Department will have charge of all war work, which until now has been done by the original three Departments. Minister Posthuma explains that this step will not only lighten the task of these Departments, and allow them to pay more attention to their proper duties, but will also afford greater unity in governmental work connected with the war. The so-called Bystand Commissie, or Committee of Aid, which now advises the Minister in all matters connected with the operation of the Distribution Law, will have charge of the new Department.

SUPPLY OF BOXWOOD IN JAPAN.

[Vice Consul Henry B. Hitchcock, Yokohama, Sept. 20.]

The nearest equivalent in Japan to Turkish boxwood appears to be "tsuge" (*Buzus sempervirens*, Linn.), which has been used by the Japanese for many years in cutting wood blocks for printing and engraving. It is of a yellowish color, fairly hard, easily worked, has a fine close grain, and is unusually free from the fault of splitting and cracking. It is now used in the manufacture of official seals, abacus counters, combs, etc. The chief drawback, however, would be the difficulty of obtaining blocks which measure more than 6 or 8 inches in diameter, as the large timber of this variety is nearly all exhausted. At best the trunk seldom exceeds a foot in diameter.

Other Kinds of Wood to be Obtained.

Cherry wood also is used to a considerable extent by the Japanese and is obtainable in larger blocks than tsuge. The grain, however, is said to be too coarse for fine work.

Aogiri, or Sultan's parasol (*Sterculia platanifolia*), and honoki (*Magnolia hypoleuca*) are also used, but are rather soft and easily marred.

As none of these woods in shapes suitable for use by engravers have figured in the Japanese export trade, price quotations and statements of quantities in stock are not available.

[A list of Japanese exporters of boxwood may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 93890.]

WAR-TIME ECONOMIES IN HOLLAND.

[Consul Frank W. Mahin, Amsterdam, Sept. 18.]

The great van Houten cocoa and chocolate factory at Weesp, near Amsterdam, has been forced to stop work for lack of coal. It is hoped that a supply may be received shortly, but the situation is uncertain.

Two boats have been withdrawn from the municipal ferry service across the Amsterdam harbor and others are making a reduced number of trips, because of the fuel shortage. The result is that the former service of a boat every 7½ minutes each way is changed to 10 minutes during the day and 20 minutes at night.

Rationing of News-Print Paper.

The scarcity of coal forces the Government to limit the quantity allotted to the Dutch company which produces paper in rolls to such an extent that the company must entirely close one of its factories. This will reduce by 25 and possibly even by 50 per cent the quantity of paper available for Dutch newspapers. Accordingly, an association of important journals resolve to reduce their consumption, beginning October 1, 1917, by 25 per cent in comparison with their use of paper in 1916. A committee of this association will act in conjunction with the company producing paper in rolls, in order to insure proper distribution and consumption.

Lend Your Money to the Government by Purchasing a Four Per Cent Liberty Bond.

THE LEIPZIG FAIR.

[Frankfurter Zeitung, Aug. 30, 1917.]

The seventh war fair (Kriegsmesse) is best characterized by the one word "warenhunger," hunger for merchandise. Bread is not the only thing the desire for which has been quickened by the war; the whole world is suffering from a real hunger for wares to such an extent that the condition might be termed almost an epidemic. The causes are well known—the increasing scarcity of raw materials, lack of workers, and, finally, a scarcity of fuel. The influence of these factors can be seen very plainly at the fair, for many important, even leading, firms are not represented at the fair at all, because they wish to spare themselves and their customers the disagreeable admission that they are unable to fill orders.

It can not be said, however, that there are any vacant spaces at the fair owing to the absence of these firms, for the management of the fair has induced a large number of new firms to send in their exhibits, and, moreover, the industries have had such a great success in the manufacture of substitute articles during the war that an untrained eye will hardly notice any change in the fair. In many branches it is really difficult to find any difference in the war exhibits as compared with exhibits shown in peace times. On the other hand, the absence of aluminum and rubber wares, of many leather wares, and many textile fabrics naturally is noticeable at once. For these the inventive German industry found substitutes immediately, and we find a really wonderful inventiveness in the manufacture of substitute articles also in the metal industries, which lack not only aluminum but also copper and brass and have to be very economical in the use of iron and steel.

Price Not a Factor—Trade Brisk.

It needs hardly to be mentioned that owing to a scarcity of leather soles the wooden and the paper soles are very much in demand, but the prices of these substitute articles are even now quite high and will doubtless go still higher. With the progress of the war, however, price has become a matter of secondary consideration only. The most important thing for the purchaser is that he obtains any goods at all, and it should be noted in this connection that the exhibitors have taken pains to offer to the purchasers as much as they have been able to offer at all.

The largest stocks were exhibited by the china and earthen ware and the glass industries, by the manufacturers of articles of luxury, and the woodenware industries. The toy industry also had considerable stocks, although the lack of clothing on dolls was readily noticed. Prices were much higher in all branches, the increases varying between 30 per cent (wooden wares) and 100 per cent or more (china and special articles).

In all branches of the industries represented at the fair trade was good, in part even unusually good, and many exhibitors received in the first two days of the fair as many orders as they could handle at all satisfactorily. By the end of the second day the fair bureau had issued about 40,000 cards to visitors from outside the city, a record number for the period of the war. A number of neutral press correspondents at Leipzig attended the fair on the second day, and

the astonishingly large number of visitors convinced them that the reports circulated so industriously by the enemy press about the alleged failure, partial or total, of the Leipzig Fair were only "hot air." Neutral countries were represented very well at the fair, the Netherlands and Switzerland particularly so. Many buyers had come from the Scandinavian countries and also from Poland, for the hunger for wares is quite strong in the occupied territory. It is hardly necessary to add that the countries of our allies, Austria-Hungary, Bulgaria, and Turkey, too, were well represented.

Successful Substitutes Found for Many Articles.

Among the various industries represented, those industries that seek to produce substitute articles had exhibits of special interest. The paper industry exhibited a large number of imitation textiles designed to take the place of linen, cotton, jute, and other fabrics. It must be admitted that in many cases the imitations are surprisingly successful, so that it is somewhat difficult to distinguish these table covers, napkins, aprons, hatbands, or even articles of underwear, in the manufacture of which paper is the chief material employed, from similar articles of the genuine materials. Good imitations of leather were also shown in large quantities. The prices of these new articles are not low, but still not excessive; fears have been expressed, however, that the prices will soon be increased considerably. Sales were satisfactory both in the paper trade and in the woodenware industry, wooden soles being particularly in demand as a substitute for leather. The demand for household articles was not as large as formerly, owing to the decrease in the number of marriages, but it was still good and could hardly be satisfied in many cases. The lighting industry has to work largely with substitute articles; it has produced some very beautiful models, nevertheless. Trading was not as brisk as formerly, owing to the limitation placed on the consumption of lighting materials. The demand for metal wares and small hardware was very good, and the buyers paid the higher prices willingly. The toy industry suffers greatly from scarcity of both materials and workers; many large firms were not represented at the fair at all, but those that still had goods to sell made very good sales. The ceramic industries again found a very good market for articles of common use and particularly good for articles of luxury.

The absence of French, Belgian, and British manufacturers of glassware and of Gallé and other specialists in the production of articles of luxury was hardly to be noticed; on the other hand, the German and the Austrian industries furnished proofs that they were fully able to compete with foreign manufacturers of china, fine glassware, and even fine articles of jewelry. The importance of this fact for the transition period and the period after the war is not to be underestimated, and a similar observation may be made concerning the manufacturers of foods, now represented at the fair for the third time, who have shown great inventiveness and zeal in the preparation of substitute articles. In this branch of industry trading was unusually lively, and large sales were made.

Foodstuffs and Textiles.

The industry of foodstuffs at the fair, better known as a surrogate industry, is still in its infancy but has furnished such strong proofs

of its right to exist that it deserves to be fostered by the authorities as much as possible. The value of the substitutes for tea, coffee, oil; the value of German tobacco, German soup roots, meat extracts, vegetable soups, etc., can be properly estimated only after the war, when the numerous decrees and ordinances have been repealed, when good raw materials will be abundant, and the manufacturer will be in a position to offer goods of quality.

The attempt to introduce a few marketable products of the textile industry seems to be very promising. The laces, trimmings, etc., shown here have found universal approval and permit us to hope for the future. The little exhibit of the association of Saxon artisans and craftsmen also attracted many amateurs and purchasers.

All in all, the seventh war fair has had a very good success, and has proved to be an excellent selling organization and also an excellent means to educate popular taste and stimulate production.

'COMMERCIAL FAILURES IN ARGENTINA IN AUGUST.

[Consul General W. Henry Robertson, Buenos Aires, Sept. 7.]

Commercial failures throughout the Argentine Republic during the month of August, 1917, were the highest during the current year and were higher than for any month for the last two years, except for September, 1915. The assets represented by these failures throughout the Republic for the month of August were 22,363,121 paper pesos, while the liabilities were 20,638,850 pesos. The Argentine paper peso equals \$0.4246 American currency.

The failures were classified as follows regarding liabilities:

Business.	Paper pesos.	Business.	Paper pesos.
Private.....	4,451,087	Furniture and bedding.....	49,172
Importers and exporters.....	13,738,730	Timber yards and builders.....	59,145
General.....	606,234	Various.....	16,015
Banks and companies.....	33,515	Men's outfitters.....	19,055
Bodegas, distilleries.....	353,405	Restaurants and hotels.....	3,150
Grocers, etc.....	345,690	Gun manufacturers.....	9,382
Drapers, mercers, and dry goods.....	286,985	Commission agents, etc.....	8,765
Tailors.....	185,644		
Cereal dealers.....	139,748	Total.....	20,638,850
Livery stables.....	62,628		

FISH LANDED IN NEW ENGLAND PORTS DURING SEPTEMBER.

The fishing fleet landing fishery products at Boston and Gloucester, Mass., and Portland, Me., during the month of September, 1917, included 242 steam and sail vessels. These vessels landed at Boston 292 trips aggregating 9,885,968 pounds, valued at \$577,015; at Gloucester, 111 trips aggregating 4,962,852 pounds, valued at \$281,232; and at Portland 235 trips aggregating 2,128,402 pounds, valued at \$107,427. The total for the three ports during the month amounted to 638 trips, aggregating 16,977,222 pounds of fresh and salted fish, having a value to the fishermen of \$965,674.

Driving a Diesel engine with gas made from peat is one of the developments of the coal and oil shortage in Denmark. A large engine shop in Copenhagen announces this new adaptation.

SOUTH AFRICA'S NEW INDUSTRIAL PROSPERITY.

Industrial prosperity in South Africa, the manner in which it has developed, and the prospects for the future are comprehensively reviewed in an article in the *Johannesburg Star*. New standards of efficiency which have been made operative by necessity are declared by the writer to have superseded old methods, and it is predicted that they will be maintained in the future. It is also stated that the chief requirement for extending the area of industrial activity is an increase in the number of small capitalists who will be able to give personal supervision to productive work, commencing in a small way and mainly with their own funds, either individually or in small groups. A copy of the article has been forwarded from Johannesburg by Consul John P. Bray. It is in part:

It was natural that the advance should commence with agriculture, and go on rapidly to woodwork and the provision of mining supplies, for which both the market and the materials were readily at hand. In all forms of cabinetmaking and allied trades the record is excellent. Chair factories have sprung up for the manufacture of cheaper goods to supplement the excellent high-class trade long established in our larger towns, and more particularly in Johannesburg; and carpenter shops are busy turning out school benches, builders' joinery, and numberless articles which used to come from America and the Baltic. In a word, saw and hammer and plane have not at any time in the history of the Union been so busily and usefully employed. But perhaps the most important and most impressive advance of all, yet the one of which least is seen in the ordinary course of things, is that which is taking place with the engineering shops of Johannesburg and the Reef. Premises and plant have been enlarged to meet the new conditions, and the work that is going forward is remarkable, both in volume and nature. Huge castings and complicated structural undertakings jostle with delicate mechanism in the crowded workshops which are turning out mining requirements—these, above all—and also motor, and to a certain extent agricultural implement parts.

Result of Driving Force of Circumstances.

All this is highly gratifying, especially to those who for years have urged the possibility of great progress in agricultural and manufacturing output. It is hardly the less so because of the fact that the evolution in question is the result of the driving force of circumstances rather than of calculated measures initiated in the country itself. The fact that the conditions of the time have been so readily met argues an enterprise that only waited on opportunity, and provides a complete vindication of the view that the Union is capable of some great things. What thinking people are asking is whether full advantage is being taken of the conditions created by the war to establish what is being done—in the language of the war, to consolidate our advances. That has been queried more than once, and will be asked again and again.

In building for the future it is essential to realize that the industrialist must depend in the first place on his good right hand and on the creation of methods and organization which will enable him to hold his own by force of merit. The Government seems to have been thoroughly aroused to the necessity of scientific research; our chemists, engineers, and economists are taking the openings afforded them with enthusiasm, and once having succeeded in moving the authorities, they can be trusted not to allow any slackening in respect of investigation in every useful direction. The chief requirement now for extending the area of industrial activity is an increase in the number of small capitalists—men able to take up productive and manufacturing work of various kinds under their personal supervision, commencing in a small way, and mainly with their own funds, either individually or in small groups. There are many trades in which large organization, wholesale output, and possibly State assistance (especially in the direction of technical inquiry) may be advisable or even essential. But where manufacturing is concerned, as apart from primary production, these openings are restricted by the smallness of the population and the consequently limited size of the market available where exports can not be contemplated. The bulk of the opportunities in sight lie before men who by moderate capitaliza-

tion, direct superintendence, and good workmanship are capable of building up enterprises which will hold their own under the more competitive conditions that must arise in the future.

Competition Within the Union.

The great danger of the present position, in which a state of drastic protection for the local article has been brought about by the war, is that mediocre standards may become the rule. It is fatally easy to fall into an error of this kind, and one of the best results of a decided growth in the number of factories would be a keen competition among establishments within the union.

The war has served to raise the European and American standards of personal efficiency and general organization to an astonishing extent. Under the intense pressure at which mechanical work especially is carried on to-day employed and employer alike have made advances that were considered wholly impossible three years ago. There will be a revulsion when the war is over, but, however much it is likely to affect the hours and conditions of labor, it will not lower the quality of the work or affect the lessons in getting the best effect out of any given process that have been learned in the hard school of necessity. These are considerations which will vitally affect South Africa's industrial future. Those concerned with it are justified in benefiting to the full—short of actual profiteering—from the stoppage of over-sea supplies. Profiteering, of course, will take place, but the mere opportunist can not well participate in activities which require the permanent investment of capital and a gradual development for their success. To the real industrialist, who puts his heart and his money into his business, the country will not grudge the ability to go ahead, and even to build up reserve funds to assist him in the more strenuous time which undoubtedly lies before him. When that time comes the extent to which business methods, concentration upon output of reasonable size, and thorough workmanship have been observed in the meantime will largely determine the size and permanence of the country's industrial conquest.

CONDITION OF SWISS FRUIT, NUT, AND VEGETABLE CROPS.

[Vice Consul J. C. McNally, Zurich, Sept. 18.]

The prospects for the fruit crop of Switzerland at the beginning of September were better than a month previous. With the exception of certain regions visited by hail, the pear and walnut trees are very full. The crop prospects for apples and prunes are good, especially in the northeastern and northwestern parts of Switzerland. The prospects for grapes vary, but the average for the country is somewhat more unfavorable than a month ago.

The repeated rainfall, interspersed with warm weather, has had a bad effect upon the potatoes. The tops have died down rapidly since the middle of August with the exception of certain late varieties, and among the earlier varieties there has been considerable rot. The beets and mangold roots promise a medium crop and the field vegetables, especially the beans, are also good, but the cabbage and the cauliflower varieties all over Switzerland have suffered from the larva of the cabbage butterfly and the yield will therefore be very small. The prospects for Indian corn are excellent and this crop will be very good.

"HOMESTEADING" IN NEW ZEALAND.

[Consul General Alfred A. Winslow, Auckland, Aug. 21.]

During 1916 there were 2,059 persons who took up Government lands in New Zealand to the total of 1,010,152 acres. The revenues of the Land Department for 1916 amounted to \$6,041,108. It is expected many of the returned soldiers will turn to the land, and more immigrants are expected on the close of the war. The Government is opening up new sections in order to supply the demand.

SHANGHAI TRADE CONDITIONS.

[Consul General Thomas Sammons, Shanghai, China, Aug. 28.]

A review of trade conditions at Shanghai for the second quarter of the current year and the declared export returns for the six months ended June 30, 1917, show that commercial conditions are fairly satisfactory. Merchants with stocks on hand have been able to do a good business owing to the favorable gold exchange, which has to a considerable extent overcome the increased cost and other charges. Political conditions, although interfering with trade, have not caused any serious and lasting results.

Piece-Goods Trade of Shanghai.

Shanghai's most important commerce—the piece-goods trade—has shown considerable strength during the quarter owing to the continued shortage of English goods which have dominated the market in the past. Prices are still advancing without any prospects of relief.

Large orders for piece goods were placed with Japanese firms last May for substituting English goods, which latter were unobtainable, owing to the prohibition of the use of wheat flour and other cereals for the filling element of cloth fabrics. It is said that the orders placed amounted to over 3,000,000 taels (about \$3,000,000 gold at present rate of exchange) and deliveries are to extend over the period from November, 1917, to April, 1918.

Deliveries of American piece goods have been going on briskly, business being done principally with Newchwang.

For the first time in the history of the trade odd lots of cloth have been imported from Singapore, Hongkong, and other Chinese ports to fill up the shortage of goods.

The list of stocks of piece goods in warehouses in Shanghai on June 30, 1917, as compiled by the British Chamber of Commerce shows a total of 1,217,621 pieces of British and American goods and 366,274 pieces of Japanese goods, as against 4,037,907 pieces of British and American goods and 440,134 pieces of Japanese goods on hand on June 30, 1916. The list, however, is not claimed to be nearly accurate, as many firms have not sent in returns. There appears to be a certain amount of reticence on the part of some houses to declare their stocks.

Declared Exports to the United States.

The declared export return to the United States for the six months ending June 30, 1917, shows an advance of more than \$9,400,000 over the same period in 1916 and of nearly \$15,000,000 over the six months ending June 30, 1915. The principal gains were in goat-skins, raw cotton, waste silk, and raw silk, which showed increases of approximately \$4,000,000, \$2,000,000, \$1,500,000, and \$1,000,000, respectively. Gains were made in exports of wool, eggs and egg products, deer and doe skins, cowhides, and sausage casings to the approximate amount of \$762,614, \$684,895, \$411,676, \$353,000, and \$154,500, respectively. The principal losses are in indigo and aniline dyes, antimony, cotton seed, and silver, being \$829,731, \$638,000, \$185,862, and \$196,476, respectively.

The following table shows the quantities and values of the declared exports to the United States for the first six months of 1916 and 1917:

Articles.	1916		1917	
	Quantities.	Values.	Quantities.	Values.
Antimony:				
(rude).....pounds..	1,215,837	\$237,132	350,000	\$30,370
Regulus.....do.....	1,354,400	357,903	1,127,000	173,495
Antique porcelains.....		102,695		77,447
Bristles.....pounds..	182,262	95,229	177,328	134,368
Chemicals:				
Albumen.....do.....	1,024,018	550,251	1,433,275	951,962
Gallnuts.....do.....	687,878	96,345	785,112	154,003
Indigo and aniline dyes.....	580,838	855,187	4,400	25,456
Licorice root.....do.....	1,054,237	65,020		
Musk.....do.....	5,057	45,340	7,490	107,065
Soda benzoate.....pounds..	12,434	54,023	224	1,076
Turmeric.....do.....	1,153,666	56,043		
Copper, slabs.....do.....			448,000	120,950
Cotton, raw.....do.....	422,659	64,027	2,629,039	437,177
Earthenware, chinaware.....		18,732		43,180
Eggs:				
Fresh.....do.....	192,550	27,366	220,830	44,815
Fro en.....pounds..	300,000	36,334	1,443,190	187,659
Egg yolk.....do.....	1,338,420	271,253	1,718,257	110,117
Feathers and downs.....do.....	1,169,179	275,872	1,820,313	400,176
Fibers, vegetable.....tons..	389	63,489	198	48,135
Fruits and nuts:				
Peanuts—				
Shelled.....pounds..	166,508	7,191	537,791	33,204
Unshelled.....do.....	510,539	22,310	1,215,688	59,867
Walnuts—				
Shelled.....do.....	511,911	45,292	109,549	13,917
Unshelled.....do.....	4,940	606	253,680	19,859
Furs:				
Dressed—				
Doz mats.....		14,539		9,991
Undressed—				
Cat.....		31,617		3,549
Deer and doe.....		111,731		523,410
Goat.....		2,872,688		6,748,696
Sheep and lamb.....		123,024		61,851
Grease and oils: Vegetable tallow.....pounds..	1,347,070	50,602		127,288
Hides:		98,738	612,963	82,315
Buffalo—				
Salted.....pieces..	9,914	83,864		
Dry.....pounds..	582,811			
Dry.....pieces..	54,671	297,404	17,681	
Dry.....pounds..	1,535,191		733,134	176,450
Cow—				
Salted.....pieces..	47,699	274,527	8,198	
Dry.....pounds..	1,458,147		268,607	69,062
Dry.....pieces..	223,172	748,000	242,912	
Dry.....pounds..	2,344,703		2,991,129	1,306,500
Household effects.....		16,904		10,241
Iron, pig.....tons..	4,783	70,194	813	15,330
Meat and dairy products: Sausage casings.....		73,166		229,043
Oils, vegetable:				
Bean.....pounds..	279,925	26,512	33,591	3,884
Castor.....do.....	775,561	62,511	49,867	12,548
Cottonseed.....do.....	9,208,311	578,286	4,561,454	392,424
Peanut.....gallons..	162,434	90,812	334,306	306,155
Silk:				
Pongees.....		273,019		585,485
Raw.....pounds..	1,304,951	5,051,907	1,120,887	6,061,195
Waste.....do.....	1,608,626	649,723	473,236	383,610
Wild.....do.....	481,943	754,528	775,810	2,260,429
Silver, Mexican dollars.....		190,476		
Straw braid.....do.....		94,229		90,892
Tea.....pounds..	922,244	153,843	2,488,202	557,940
Wool, sheep.....do.....	4,451,331	935,778	5,394,779	1,699,392
All other articles.....		770,841		2,775,219
Total.....		17,855,081		27,303,448

Unprecedented High Value of Silver.

The export market has been severely handicapped by the continued rise of silver. The Shanghai tael, which stood at \$0.90 for

some time, is worth \$1.07 United States currency to-day. While high rates of silver would, in the ordinary course of business, benefit importers, under the present circumstances it only helps those who are lucky enough to obtain their goods, and in most cases it is now a question of taking what can be obtained. There are indications that large orders for various kinds of goods have been placed in the United States, owing to the difficulty of procuring goods from Europe.

JAPANESE CONTINUE EMIGRATION TO BRAZIL.

[Extract from Japan Advertiser, forwarded by Consul General George H. Scidmore, Yokohama, Sept. 11.]

About 1,500 Japanese emigrants for Brazil will sail from Kobe some time in October by the Nippon Yusen Kaisha liner *Wakasa Maru*, going via the Cape of Good Hope. This is the third group of Japanese emigrants to leave for that country this year. The two other groups included about 2,000 persons. Most of the 1,500 emigrants who will sail in October are Nanseians. The total of 3,500 is part of the 5,000 whom the Japanese emigration companies have contracted with the Brazilian Government to dispatch to that country.

CATALOGUES DESIRED OF FARMING IMPLEMENTS AND WIND-MILLS.

[Consul Oscar S. Helzer, Bagdad, Mesopotamia.]

The British authorities at Bagdad are endeavoring to introduce modern farming implements, such as motor-drawn gang plows, reapers, threshing machines, etc., into this region; also windmills for the purpose of drawing water from the river for irrigation purposes. The country about here is flat and windmills could do great service if once introduced. The consulate would be pleased to receive catalogues with price lists and terms from manufacturers in order that they may be brought to the attention of interested parties.

ITALY FIXES MAXIMUM PRICES FOR HOG'S FAT.

[Vice Consul Quincy F. Roberts, Genoa, Sept. 14.]

The Gazzetta Ufficiale, published at Rome September 10, 1917, contains a decree of the Commissary General for supply and consumption of food establishing the maximum price for hog's fat. The maximum wholesale price for hog's fat (bacon, lard, sides, or jowl) is raised to 525 lire (\$101.32) the quintal (100 kilos or 220.46 pounds) on board at the station of departure. The retail price cannot be higher than 6 lire (\$1.16) per kilo in addition to the eventual duty.

OFFICES OF THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE.

DISTRICT OFFICES.

NEW YORK: 784 Customhouse.
BOSTON: 1801 Customhouse.
CHICAGO: 504 Federal Building.
ST. LOUIS: 402 Third National Bank Building.
NEW ORLEANS: 1020 Elbernia Bank Building.
SAN FRANCISCO: 307 Customhouse.
SEATTLE: 848 Henry Building.

COOPERATIVE OFFICES.

CLEVELAND: Chamber of Commerce.
CINCINNATI: Chamber of Commerce.
CINCINNATI: General Freight Agent, Southern Railway, 96 Ingalls Building.
LOS ANGELES: Chamber of Commerce.
PHILADELPHIA: Chamber of Commerce.
CHATTANOOGA: South American Agent, Southern Railway System.
PORTLAND, OREG.: Chamber of Commerce.
DAYTON: Greater Dayton Association.

NEW BATTERY FOR ELECTRIC POCKET LAMPS.

[Vice Consul J. C. McNally, Zurich, Switzerland, Aug. 22.]

A new dry battery for electric pocket lamps has been invented by a citizen of Zurich. It is said to be cheaper, better, and of simpler construction than those now in use. Instead of a single block battery it consists of three separate and distinct elements, which are placed side by side in the metal lamp case. The chief improvement is the possibility of substitution for a single element in case the battery is out of order.

In the event of the battery becoming defective, the voltage of each element is tested to ascertain which one is useless, and it may then be replaced by a single new element. Naturally the cost is considerably reduced. Another important improvement is the possibility of using the new battery in connection with almost any pocket-lamp case now in use.

Greater Part of Work Done by Machine.

In spite of the exorbitant prices that one must pay now for raw material in Switzerland, the cost of manufacture of this battery is still figured at 50 per cent lower than that of the old battery. While certain operations require hand labor, the greater part of the work is done by machine. The process is said to be very simple. There is no apparent saving in raw materials, because, on the whole, they are the same as those used for block batteries, with the exception of a few products such as tin for soldering purposes, cloth packing, thread, paper tubes, pitch for insulating, and brass contacts. On the other hand, the new battery requires copper and substances similar to wax, but in comparatively small quantities.

A factory installation consists of an eccentric press, a drying oven, a brush-cleaning machine, a galvanic copper bath, and a filling machine, the total cost of which in Switzerland is estimated at \$2,500. Such a factory is said to be capable of producing daily 30,000 elements, or 10,000 batteries. It is assumed that such an installation could easily be procured in the United States at a cost not exceeding \$1,800.

The cost of materials per element to the manufacturer is 0.4156 cent or 1.247 cents per battery in normal times, and 1.0436 cents per element or 3.131 cents per battery to-day. All the raw materials without exception are said to be available in the United States, and it is even assumed that they are less expensive there than here. These materials are red oxide of manganese, Ceylon graphite, zinc, wax and resin, copper, sal ammoniac, zinc chloride, ammonium sulphate, starch, and lacquer.

[Samples of the elements for batteries that are discussed in this report, and of electric pocket lamps fitted with these batteries, together with printed circulars on the subject and a photograph of a machine used in manufacturing the elements, may be inspected at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, or its district offices. Refer to file No. 93806. One of the pocket lamps shows the method of fitting this battery to an old case.]

Canadian press statements received from Consul E. Verne Richardson give prominence to reports of the acquisition by American interests of certain copper-bearing lands in Albert County, New Brunswick. The section in which they are located is part of the Moncton consular district.

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the Bureau and its district and cooperative offices. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and state opportunity number. The Bureau does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases. Symbols: * Reported by American consular officers; † Reported by commercial attachés and commercial agents; ‡ Direct inquiries received by the Bureau.

In considering the following "opportunities" special regard should be had to the laws and regulations governing export licenses and trading with the enemy.

Machinery-----	25626, 25628, 25634	Aluminum and aluminum products--	25635
Motor-cycle accessories-----	25632	Automobiles and accessories-----	25627
Novelties-----	25633	Bicycles and accessories-----	25632
Pens, fountain-----	25633	Biscuits-----	25631
Soap and perfumes-----	25633	Building material-----	25626
Stationery-----	25633	Clocks and watches-----	25633
Tools-----	25626, 25633	Crank shafts-----	25626
Toys-----	25633	Electrical supplies-----	25626
Tractors, farm-----	25626	Hardware-----	25626
Vacuum washers-----	25629	Machine tools-----	25626

25626.‡—The representative of a firm in France who is at present in the United States desires to secure the representation of American manufacturers and exporters for the sale of electrical implements and supplies, farm tractors, machinery, machine tools, tools, hardware, and building and construction material. References.

25627.*—An agency is desired by a man in Brazil for the sale of low-priced automobiles and accessories. Quotations should be made f. o. b. New York. Payment will be made by cash against documents. Correspondence may be in English.

25628.†—The secretary of a firm in Chile desires to be placed in communication with American manufacturers and exporters of spinning machinery. Catalogues and descriptive literature should be submitted.

25629.*—A firm in Canada desires to purchase vacuum washers. Quotations may be made f. o. b. Cash will be paid. Correspondence may be in English.

25630.*—A company in China is in the market for forged steel crank shafts. Payment will be made by letter of credit in New York or San Francisco. Strong packing should be used to insure protection in handling. Correspondence may be in English. References.

25631.*—A firm in India desires to buy biscuits (crackers). Quotations should be made f. o. b. port of shipment. Payment will be made against documents. —Correspondence may be in English. Reference.

25632.*—A man in Switzerland wishes to purchase and secure an agency for the sale of bicycles and accessories of all sorts for bicycles and motorcycles. Correspondence may be in English. References.

25633.*—A business man in New Zealand is in the market for mechanical toys, household novelties, tools, riveters, leather punches, patent tie clips, model building outfits, compass and sun-dial watches, money boxes, puzzle boxes, perfumes, fancy soap, stationery, alarm clocks, fountain pens, pencil clips, and all kinds of novelties in general. Payment will be made by bank draft with order.

25634.*—A company in China desires to purchase six machines for manufacturing flat and round boot and shoe laces in standard lengths, machines to have electric motor attachment and belt driven. Quotations should be made f. o. b. Pacific seaport. Payment will be made by cash in New York or San Francisco against letter of credit. The machines should be packed in strong iron-bound export cases. Correspondence may be in English. References.

25635.†—A man in France wishes to buy aluminum and aluminum products. He also desires to secure an agency for the sale of same. Correspondence should be in French. References.

COMMERCE REPORTS

DAILY CONSULAR AND TRADE REPORTS
ISSUED DAILY BY THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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MAXIMUM BRITISH PRICES OF AMERICAN LARD INCREASED.

[Cablegram from American consul general, London.]

Food Controller increases maximum wholesale prices of American lard 6s. per 112 pounds. Prices now prevailing are: Pails, 131s. 3d.; boxes and tierces, 130s.; prime steam, 128s.

BRITISH PROHIBITION ON LEATHER AND SHOES.

[Cablegram from American consul general, London, Oct. 17.]

See my cable, October 9, reporting that American leather ordered previous to February 23, 1917, may now be imported. Concession does not extend to boots and shoes. American leather when received will be turned over to War Office and will enter into general consumption only under War Office regulations. Importers of shoes have been asked to furnish details of previous importations, thus foreshadowing relaxation of prohibitions and possible admission of small percentage former imports. Impossible to suggest when relaxation becomes effective if at all.

[The cable of Oct. 9 announcing the concession for bulk leather imports was published in COMMERCE REPORTS for Oct. 12. Decisions admitting limited quantities of other goods, chiefly articles of luxury, have been reported in earlier issues.]

CHANGE IN FRENCH IMPORT PROHIBITIONS.

Consul General Thackara has recently reported from Paris on the removal of certain articles from the list of goods exempt from the license requirement applicable to most imports into France. The announcement, taken from the Journal Officiel, included the following list of goods formerly admitted without license but for which the importer must now obtain license before giving orders abroad:

Tariff No. 16, fresh and refrigerated meats; 17, hams, boned and rolled; cooked hams; 17bis, meat, salted, including ham, bacon, beef

and other; 17ter, sausages and other pork products; 17quat, ox jowl; 19, canned meats; 36, cheese; 37, butter; 88, oil seeds and oil fruits; 189, sulphur in various forms; ex278, sulphate of copper.

A further change consists in the decision to admit oil cake (other than that of olives) and brewery and distillery residues, classified under tariff No. 166bis, without license.

The most recent complete list of goods for which special licenses are not required was published as part of the Consul General's cablegram of July 20 in COMMERCE REPORTS for July 24. That list, revised in accordance with the changes noted in the present report, is now called "List A." The other articles of the French tariff are divided into separate sections, each division being placed under the supervision of committee which will report to the competent authority as to the advisability of granting import licenses. Applications for import licenses must be made to the proper committee by the French importer. Severe penalties are provided for failure to make the required arrangements before giving orders abroad.

ARGENTINE EXPORTS FOR THE FIRST EIGHT MONTHS OF 1917.

[Consul General W. Henry Robertson, Buenos Aires, Sept. 15.]

The Argentine Government has just published the following comparisons on the principal exports from January 1 to August 31, 1917, as compared with the same period in 1916. Due principally to the lack of shipping space, the exports during the first eight months of this year were considerably smaller than for the same period last year with the exception of quebracho logs, butter, sheepskins, horsehides, wool, tallow, and frozen beef. The comparative figures are as follows:

Articles.	January-August—		Articles.	January-August—	
	1917	1916		1917	1916
	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>		<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>
Wheat.....	765,919	1,597,578	Sheepskins.....	11,841	8,881
Maize.....	693,327	1,562,440	Goatskins.....	837	2,358
Linseed.....	61,958	495,331	Wool.....	95,840	83,772
Oats.....	231,697	573,221	Hair.....	1,310	2,012
Barley.....	11,441	29,939	Tallow.....	22,642	15,894
Canary seed.....	887	2,148		<i>Number.</i>	<i>Number.</i>
Malt.....	1,268	4,548	Horses.....	5,173	14,864
Bran.....	428	354	Dry cattle hides.....	1,124,948	1,121,455
Quebracho logs.....	75,799	74,779	Salted cattle hides.....	2,007,485	2,123,016
Quebracho extract.....	56,120	92,096	Horsehides.....	121,858	81,689
Butter.....	3,965	4,237	Frozen beef.....	3,642,516	3,304,745
Hay.....	4,514	11,977	Frozen sheep.....	1,123,637	1,484,781

a Quarters.

ITALY ORDERS STATEMENTS BY OWNERS OF TRACTORS.

[Vice Consul Quincy F. Roberts, Genoa, Sept. 6.]

A decree of the Minister of Agriculture provides that holders of machines for mechanical plowing must make a declaration on the subject before September 15, 1917. The regulations cover engines or plows which have belonged to machines of this class if they are still utilizable for the purpose. A separate declaration is ordered for each type of machine. A statement may cover several machines only, when they are of the same type and in the same condition.

THE POSITION OF THE GERMAN MALT INDUSTRY.

[From the Frankfurter Zeitung of Aug. 30; transmitted by Commercial Attaché Erwin W. Thompson, The Hague, Netherlands.]

The German Association of Malt Factories reports that before the war a total of some 300,000,000 marks were invested in malt-manufacturing establishments. The principal trouble in this industry at present is the fact that the Government does not believe that the production of malt is of sufficient importance to warrant giving the necessary barley to the factories, and malt-making establishments are left out of account in the apportionment of the barley crop. In peace times the malt factories are free to buy as much barley as they like, but now they can only obtain what the brewers give them for malting. Under the circumstances, the manufacture of malt in this fashion was often not a paying proposition. Up to May 4 the malt establishments managed to make a certain profit—to compensate for their losses in other directions—by appropriating whatever was left over in the manufacture of malt. For instance, a contract might provide that 75 kilos of malt should be given for every 100 kilos of barley. Since May 4, 1916, however, this source of profit has been cut off by governmental regulations.

Before the war the German breweries manufactured about half of the malt they used and bought the rest from the malt factories. Now the malt factories are called upon to manufacture only that malt which the brewers themselves have no facilities to make. Little by little the manufacture of malt has been reduced until now practically all the malt which is used is made in breweries, and the malt factories are threatened with complete suspension of operations.

The malt factories should take immediate steps to protect their industry, for it can not be expected that the arrival of peace will put an end to the present difficulties. The shortage of barley may be felt for many years after peace has been established.

LIST OF TITLES REFERRING TO BRANCH BANKING.

A bibliographical list of titles referring to branch banking has just been compiled in the Division of Research of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce. These titles are intended as a guide to the busy man who may wish to know something of what has been written on the important subject of which they treat. It is probably safe to predict that, in the next 10 years, this branch of the banking business in the United States will demand greater attention in the financial world. In this respect, the organization of banking in the United States has, to date, differed from that of several foreign countries in which the branch bank constitutes a familiar and normal phase of the conduct of business. The American development will include American branch banks established in foreign countries for the facilitation of American business abroad. The work of the American banks already directly interested in the foreign field promises much for the foreign branches of American banks. This list may be had by applying to the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 7902.

Lend Your Money to the Government by Purchasing a Four Per Cent Liberty Bond.

CONSERVATION LIST AND ARTICLES REQUIRING EXPORT LICENSE.

In the following statement prepared by the War Trade Board are given additions to conservation list, complete conservation list, additions to articles requiring license, and a complete list of articles requiring a license:

ADDITIONS TO THE CONSERVATION LIST.

The War Trade Board announces a list of commodities, in addition to those published on September 28, 1917 [see **COMMERCE REPORTS** for Sept. 29], whose conservation is necessary on account of the limited supply and the needs of the United States in its successful prosecution of the war. Accordingly, the Board has practically prohibited the exportation of these articles, the list of which follows:

Amorphous phosphorus.	Ferrocobalt.	Plumbago (graphite, imported, and articles manufactured therefrom.
Babbitt metal and other antifriction metals.	Ferromolybdenum.	Planers, 30 inches and larger.
Bichromate of potash.	Ferronickel.	Peas, including seed.
Bismuth salts.	Ferrotungsten.	Sal ammoniac.
Boring machines, horizontal.	All manufactured articles containing flax which are manufactured in the United States.	Sheelite.
Boring mills, vertical, all sizes.	Flannelette raisings (wool).	Sodium phosphate.
Brass, articles of.	Grinders, internal, plain and universal.	Solder.
Bronze, articles of (unless containing less than 10 per cent copper).	Graphite electrodes.	Tin and any metallic alloy containing tin:
Cable (copper or insulated).	Hair, animal.	Chloride of tin.
Caustic potash.	Hardware, finished articles contain more than 10 per cent of copper.	Tin ore.
China wood oil.	Hydrofluoric acid.	Tin canisters (except when used as food containers).
Chrome steel.	Jute, and products (including cloth, bags, gunnies, twine, etc.).	Tin boxes (except when used as food containers).
Chromium:	Lathes, 24-inch swing and larger.	Tin foil.
Ore.	Linen.	Tungsten ore: Any metal, ferroalloy, or chemical extracted therefrom.
Any metal, ferroalloy, or chemical extracted therefrom.	Manganese:	Type, metal.
Cobalt:	Ore.	Vanadium.
Ore.	Any metal, ferroalloy, or chemical extracted therefrom.	Wolframite.
Any metal, ferroalloy, or chemical extracted therefrom.	Milling machines, plain and universal, except hand millers.	Wool:
Copper:	Mercury.	Raw.
Ore.	Molybdenum.	Scoured.
Any metal, ferroalloy, or chemical extracted therefrom unless less than 10 per cent of copper.	Molybdenite.	Wool products suitable for military purposes.
Crucibles.	Naxos emery.	Wool and worsted yarns.
Diamonds (Industrial).	Nickel and nickel alloys.	Wool and worsted tops.
Drill presses, except sensitive.	Nickel (more than 5 per cent):	Wool and worsted nolls.
Drilling machinery, radial.	Ore.	Wool and worsted waste.
Ferrochrome.	Any metal, ferroalloy, or chemical extracted therefrom.	Yellow phosphorus.
Ferrovandium.		

Export licenses may be granted, however, for the above-mentioned articles when they are destined for actual war purposes or when they will directly contribute thereto. Licenses may also be granted in certain unusual cases where such exports will contribute directly to

the immediate production of important commodities required by the United States, and also in certain other cases where these commodities may be exported in limited quantities without detriment to this country.

Shipments in Transit to Canada.

To facilitate exports to Canada and Newfoundland, there has been heretofore issued, through the customs service, a special license whereby goods have been permitted to enter Canada and Newfoundland without an individual license for each shipment, except in the case of the commodities which the Board has heretofore found it necessary to conserve, and for whose exportation individual licenses have been required, as stated in the several announcements made by the Board from time to time. With respect to the commodities above mentioned, which are now added to the "Conservation list" in accordance with this statement, an individual export license will likewise be required for each shipment of such additional conserved commodities, which is covered by ocean and/or railroad bill of lading marked "For export" and dated on or after October 22, 1917. This date has been fixed in order to avoid interference with goods in transit.

COMPLETE CONSERVATION LIST TO DATE.

For the convenient reference of shippers, the Board takes this occasion to publish the "Conservation list," complete to date, including the commodities which it has heretofore been found necessary to conserve, as well as the commodities now added to the "Conservation list." The complete "Conservation list" follows:

Acetone.	Caustic soda.	Ferronickel.
Alcohol.	China wood oil.	Ferrosilicon.
Aluminum.	Chrome nickel steel.	Ferrotungsten.
Ammonia salts.	Chrome steel.	Ferrovanadium.
Amorphous phosphorus.	Chromium:	Flannelette raisings
Ammonia nitrate.	Ore.	(wool).
Anhydrous ammonia.	Any metal, ferroal-	Flax and all manufac-
Animal fats.	loy, or chemical ex-	tured articles contain-
Arsenate of lead.	tracted therefrom.	ing flax which are
Arsenate of soda.	Cobalt:	manufactured in the
Babbitt metal and other	Ore.	United States.
antifriction metals.	Any metal, ferroal-	Food grains (including,
Bichromate of potash.	loy, or chemical ex-	among others, wheat,
Bismuth salts.	tracted therefrom.	barley, corn, rice, oats,
Boring machines, hori-	Copper:	and rye).
zontal.	Ore.	Glycerine.
Boring mills, vertical, all	Any metal, ferroal-	Grinders, internal, plain
sizes.	loy, or chemical ex-	and universal.
Brass, articles of.	tracted therefrom	Graphite electrodes.
Bronze, articles of (unless	unless less than 10	Hair, animal.
containing less than 10	per cent of copper.	Hardware, finished ar-
per cent copper).	Cotton linters.	cles containing more
Boiler tubes (iron and	Cottonseed oil.	than 10 per cent of cop-
steel).	Crucibles.	per.
Boring mills, vertical, 42	Cyanide of sodium.	Hydrofluoric acid.
inches and larger.	Diamonds (industrial).	Iron and steel plates, in-
Butter.	Drill presses, except sen-	cluding ship, boiler,
Cable (copper or insu-	sitive.	tank, and other iron
lated).	Drilling machines, radial.	and steel plates $\frac{1}{4}$ inch
Carbolic acid (phenol).	Ferrocchrome.	thick and heavier and
Castor oil and castor	Ferrocobalt.	wider than 6 inches,
beans.	Ferromolybdenum.	whether plain or fabri-
Caustic potash.	Ferromanganese.	cated.

Jute and products (including cloth, bags, gunnies, twine, etc.).

Lard.

Lard compound.

Lathes, 24 inches swing and larger.

Linen.

Manganese:

Ore.

Any metal, ferroalloy, or chemical extracted therefrom.

Milling machines, plain and universal, except hand millers.

Mercury.

Mercury salts.

Molybdenum.

Molybdenite.

Naxos emery.

Nitrate of soda.

Nitric acid.

Nickel and nickel alloys. Nickel (more than 5 per cent):

Ore.

Any metal, ferroalloy, or chemicals extracted therefrom.

Nitric salts.

Oil-well casing.

Oil cake.

Oil-cake meal.

Phosphoric acid.

Phosphorus.

Pig iron.

Planers, metal working, 26 inches wide and larger.

Planers, 30 inches and larger.

Plumbago (graphite, imported, and articles manufactured therefrom).

Peas, including seed.

Potash and chlorate of potash.

Potassium salts.

Sal ammoniac.

Saltpeter.

Scrap iron.

Scrap steel.

Searchlights and generators (suited for Army and Navy use).

Sheelite.

Soaps.

Sodium phosphate.

Sodium sulphite.

Solder.

Spiegeleisen.

Stearine and stearic acid.

Steel billets.

Steel blooms.

Steel ingots.

Steel sheet bars.

Steel slabs.

Sugar.

Sulphate of ammonia.

Sulphur and sulphuric acid.

Superphosphate.

Tallow.

Tin and any metallic alloy containing tin:

Chloride of tin.

Tin ore.

Tin canisters, except when used as food containers.

Tin boxes, except when used as food containers.

Tin foil.

Tin plate.

Tungsten ore.

Tungsten:

Ore.

Any metal, ferroalloy, or chemical extracted therefrom.

Toluol.

Type metal.

Vegetable oils.

Vanadium.

Wireless apparatus.

Wheat.

Wheat flour.

Wolframite.

Wool:

Raw.

Scoured.

Wool products suitable for military purposes.

Wool rags.

Wool and worsted yarns.

Wool and worsted tops.

Wool and worsted waste.

Wool and worsted nolls.

Yellow phosphorus.

ADDITIONS TO ARTICLES REQUIRING LICENSES.

The attention of shippers is directed to the fact that the following commodities have been recently classified as requiring an export license when shipped to—

Abyssinia.

Afghanistan.

Argentina.

That portion of Belgium not occupied by the military forces of Germany, or the colonies, possessions, or protectorates of Belgium.

Bolivia.

Brazil.

China.

Chile.

Colombia.

Costa Rica.

Cuba.

Dominican Republic.

Ecuador.

Egypt.

France, her colonies, possessions, or protectorates.

Guatemala.

Haiti.

Honduras.

Italy, her colonies, possessions, or protectorates.

Great Britain, her colonies, possessions, or protectorates.

Japan.

Liberia.

Mexico.

Monaco.

Montenegro.

Morocco.

Nepal.

Nicaragua.

The colonies, possessions, or protectorates of the Netherlands.

Oman.

Panama.

Paraguay.

Persia.

Peru.

Portugal, her colonies, possessions, or protectorates.

Roumania.

Russia.

Salvador.

San Marino.

Serbia.

Siam.

Uruguay.

Venezuela.

Excluding any portion of the foregoing occupied by the military forces of Germany or her allies, or any territory occupied by the

military forces of the United States or by the nations associated with the United States in the war.

In order to avoid interference with goods in transit, no export license will be required for such shipments of these commodities as are covered by an ocean and/or railroad bill of lading marked "For export" and dated on or before October 22, 1917. This list may be regarded as supplementary to the one already published:

Alum.	German silver.	Silver-plated ware.
Amorphous phosphorus.	Glauber salts.	Sodium fluoride.
Bichromate of soda.	Hydrofluoric acid.	Sulphate of quinine.
Bismuth salts.	Hyposulphite of soda.	Toys containing lead,
Brass, and articles of.	Nicotine sulphate.	zinc, tin, aluminum.
Bronze, and articles of.	Paraffin wax.	Yellow phosphorus.
Chrome alum.	Peas (including seed).	Zinc oxide, dry.
Epsom salts.	Plated ware.	
Ferric alum.	Sal ammoniac.	

Export License for Benzol, Phenol, and Toluol Derivatives.

The Board has determined that the following benzol, phenol, and toluol derivatives will require an export license when shipped to any country of the world. Such of these, however, as are not on the "Conservation list" will proceed to Canada as heretofore under the special license issued through the customs service:

Acetanillide.	Dimethylaniline.	Nitrosodimethylaniline.
Aniline oil.	Diphenylamine.	Naphthalene.
Aniline salts.	Nitroacetanillide (para-nitroacetanillide).	Paranitraniline.
Amido azo benzol.	Nitroaniline.	Phenol (carbolic acid).
Amido phenol (para amido phenol).	Nitrobenzol.	Tetranitroaniline.
Benzol.	Nitrophenol (paranitrophenol).	Tetranitromethylaniline.
Betanaphthol.	Nitrotoluol:	Tetranitroethylaniline.
Carbolic acid (phenol).	Orthonitrotoluol.	Toluol.
Chlorbenzol (mono chlorbenzol).	Paranitrotoluol.	Trinitrotoluol.
Cresols.	Nitroxylols.	Toluidine:
Dinitrobenzol (metadinitrobenzol).	Nitrocresols.	Orthotoluidine.
Dinitrochlorbenzol.	Nitronaphthalenes.	Paratoluidine.
Dinitrophenol.	Nitrochlorbenzol (paranitrochlorbenzol).	Xylidine.
		Xylol.

COMPLETE LIST OF ARTICLES REQUIRING A LICENSE AT PRESENT.

The Board has prepared the following list comprising commodities which have already been determined to be included under the general headings mentioned in the second division of the proclamation of August 27, 1917. Additions may be made to this list if it is determined that other articles are properly included under these general headings:

Abrasives (all artificial).	Alundum wheels.	Animal fats.
Acetone.	Amido azo benzol.	Antircraft instruments:
Acetanillide.	Amido phenol (para amido phenol).	Apparatus and accessories.
Acid hydrofluoric.	Ammonia and its salts.	Antimony.
Acid phosphates.	Ammonia anhydrous.	Antimony black.
Aeronautical instruments.	Ammonia nitrate.	Artificial friction metal.
Aeronautical machines.	Ammunition.	Arms.
Alcohol.	Amorphous phosphorus.	Arsenate of lead.
Aloxite wheels.	Aniline oil.	Arsenate of soda.
Alloy steel.	Aniline salts.	Ash, wood.
Alum.	Angles:	Auto grease.
Aluminum and articles made entirely thereof.	Iron.	Automatic guides.
Alundum grain.	Steel.	Babbitt metal.

Bacon.	Cellulose.	Drill chucks.
Barium nitrate.	Cereals (oatmeal, rolled oats).	Dry paste flour.
Barley.	Channels (all sizes):	Drilling implements and machinery with accessories for oil wells.
Belting, leather.	Iron.	Drill rods.
Benzene.	Steel.	Drill presses.
Betanaphthol.	Cheese.	Drills (carbon and high-speed twist).
Bluestones (copper sulphate).	Chlorate of potash.	Electrical equipment (all).
Benzine.	Chlorbenzol (mono chlorbenzol).	Electric generators.
Beams (of all sizes):	Chrome alum.	Electric lamps.
Iron.	Chromium (for steel alloy).	Emery and emery cloth.
Steel.	Chrome nickel steel.	Emery wheels.
Benzol and its derivatives.	Chlorate of potash.	Engines (except locomotives).
Bichromate of soda.	Clothing, leather.	Epsom salts.
Billets, steel.	Coal.	Ether.
Binder twine (for reaping machines).	Coconut, dessicated.	Exhaust pipes.
Binocular (for marine use).	Cod liver oil.	Explosives.
Birch wood.	Coke.	Fan belts (if leather).
Blancfixe (sulphate of barium).	Condensed milk.	Fats (all).
Blooms, steel.	Condensers.	Ferro chrome.
Bleached soda pulp.	Coin:	Ferric alum.
Boilers, steam.	Silver.	Ferrocyanide potash.
Boiler fitting.	Gold.	Ferromanganese.
Boiler plates.	Copper and articles made entirely thereof.	Ferrosilicon.
Boiler plugs.	Copper bars.	Ferrotitanium.
Boiler pipes.	Copper ingots.	Ferrovanadium.
Boiler tubes:	Copper plates.	Fertilizers, including—
Iron.	Copper rods.	Cattle and sheep manure.
Steel.	Copper strap.	Nitrate of soda.
Copper.	Copper sheets.	Poudrette.
Bone:	Copper sulphate.	Potato manure.
Ground.	Copper tubes.	Potassium salts.
Meal.	Copper wire.	Land plaster.
Boots and shoes of leather.	Copper-wire insulators.	Potash.
Bolt-heading machines.	Cotton.	Cyanamide.
Bone flour.	Cotton lintors.	Phosphoric acid.
Bookbinder's tin stitching wire.	Copra.	Phosphate rock.
Boring mills (vertical, 42 inches and larger).	Corn (matze)	Super-phosphate.
Boring tubes.	Corn flour.	Chlorate of potash.
Boring machines with countershaft.	Corn meal.	Bone meal.
Bromide ammonium.	Corn oil.	Bone flour.
Bronze and articles of.	Corrugated copper gas-kets.	Ground bone.
Bunkers.	Corundum wheels and stones.	Dried blood.
Buckram (flax).	Cottonseed meal.	Ammonia and ammonia salts.
Burlap.	Cottonseed oil.	Acid phosphates.
Butter.	Cresols.	Guano.
Cane knives.	Crisco.	Humus.
Can-maker machines.	Crucibles.	Hard wood ashes.
Carbons, electric light.	Cyanamide.	Soot.
Carbolic acid (phenol).	Cyanides (all).	Anhydrous ammonia.
Car seals.	Cyanide of sodium.	Films (all):
Carborundum.	Diamonds, industrial.	Moving pictures.
Carrier and other pigeons.	Dimethyl aniline.	Scrap.
Casings, oil well.	Dinitrobenzol (metadinitrobenzol).	Fire box, boiler.
Castor oil.	Dinitrophenol.	Fish:
Castor beans.	Dinitrochlorbenzol.	Fresh.
Caustic soda.	Diphenylamine.	Dried.
Cattle manure.	Drill presses, except sensitive.	Canned.
	Drilling machines, radial.	Flake graphite.
	Dry blood.	Flax.
		Flour.

Food grains, flour and meal therefrom.
 Fodder and feeds.
 Fuel oils.
 Gasoline.
 Ganges for steam boilers.
 German silver.
 Glass reflectors.
 Glycerine.
 Glucose.
 Graphite.
 Grease of animal or vegetable origin.
 Grinders, internal, plain and universal.
 Grinding heads.
 Grindstones power driven.
 Ground bone.
 Guano.
 Hair, animal.
 Hand lantern oil.
 Hard wood ashes.
 Harness.
 Hemp and manufactures thereof.
 Hides.
 High speed steel.
 Hoof oil.
 Humus.
 Hulls, fodder.
 Hydrofluoric acid.
 Hydroquinine.
 Hyposulphite of soda.
 Iron boiler tubes.
 Iron scrap.
 Iron and steel shapes:
 Beams, all sizes.
 Channels, all sizes.
 Angles, all sizes.
 Tees and zeos.
 Iron, fabricated, structural, including beams, channels, angles, tees, and zeos, and plates fabricated and shipped knocked down.
 Iron plates, including ship boiler, tank, and all other iron plates $\frac{1}{2}$ of an inch thick and heavier and wider than 6 inches and circles over 6 inches in diameter. This includes No. 11 U. S. gauge but not No. 11 B. W. gauge.
 Instruments:
 Aeronautical.
 Antiaircraft.
 Optical.
 Electrical.
 Ingots, steel.
 Jute, and all manufactures thereof.
 Jute cloth.
 Kerosene.

Khaki clippings.
 Knife-grinding machinery (power driven).
 Knives (sugar cane).
 Land plaster.
 Lard.
 Lard compound.
 Lathes.
 Lathe tools.
 Lead.
 Leather.
 Leather belting.
 Leather clothing.
 Leather:
 Sole.
 Upper.
 Lenses, optical.
 Linseed oil.
 Linseed.
 Live stock.
 Loopers.
 Looper cutters for knitting machines.
 Lubricants.
 Machines, aeronautical (and instruments), their parts and accessories.
 Engines (except locomotives—
 Condensers.
 Metal working.
 Wood working.
 Oil-well drilling.
 Pumps.
 Turbines.
 Machetes.
 Machine tools.
 Manganese (for alloy steel).
 Magnifiers, optical.
 Mahogany wood.
 Malt.
 Magnesium sulphate.
 Manganese oxide.
 Manila rope.
 Manure, cattle.
 Manure, sheep.
 Meats, all.
 Meat juice.
 Meats and fats, including:
 Poultry.
 Cottonseed oil.
 Copra.
 Corn oil.
 Desiccated coconut.
 Butter.
 Fish, fresh, dried, and canned.
 Edible or inedible grease.
 Of animal or vegetable origin.
 Linseed oil.
 Lard.
 Tinned milk.

Meats and fats, including—Continued.
 Peanut oil.
 Peanut butter.
 Rapeseed oil.
 Tallow.
 Tallow candles.
 Stearic acid.
 Pig tails.
 Mercury and its salts.
 Mercury salts.
 Metals:
 Antifriction.
 Babbitt.
 Metal-working machine.
 Microscopes.
 Milk, tinned and powdered, not fresh.
 Milling cutters.
 Mineral colza.
 Mineral oil.
 Mirror iron.
 Molasses.
 Molybdenum.
 Motors:
 Steam.
 Gas.
 Electric.
 Naphtha.
 Naphthalene.
 Naphthaline balls.
 Neat's-foot oil.
 Nestle's food (infants).
 Newspaper.
 Nickel.
 Nicotine sulphate.
 Nitroacetanilide (para-nitroacetanilide).
 Nitrate silver.
 Nitroaniline.
 Nitrobenzol.
 Nitrate of ammonia.
 Nitrophenol (paranitrophenol).
 Nitric acid.
 Nitrotoluol:
 Orthonitrotoluol.
 Paranitrotoluol.
 Nitric acid and its salts.
 Nitroxyls.
 Nitrocresols.
 Nitrate of soda.
 Nitronaphthalenes.
 Nitrochlorbenzol (para-nitrochlorbenzol).
 Nitric salts.
 Nitrosodimethylaniline.
 Nitrate of potash.
 Nitrogen lamps.
 Oak, wood.
 Oakum.
 Oats.
 Oatmeal.
 Oilcake.
 Oilmeal cake.
 Oilwell casing.

Oilwell drilling imple- ments and machinery and accessories.	Profilers.	Specular iron.
Optical glass.	Prussiate soda.	Spelter.
Optical—	Propeller shaft.	Spiegeleisen.
Instruments.	Pulp boards.	Spruce, wood.
Reflectors.	Pumps, steam and elec- tric driven.	Staves (if of wood speci- fied in the proclama- tion of Aug. 27, 1917).
Oils, including—	Primers.	Steam boilers.
Fuel.	Potassium citrate.	Steam boiler tubes.
Lubricating.	Quicksilver.	Stearine.
Lantern.	Quinine sulphate.	Stearine acid.
Naptha.	Radio apparatus and all accessories.	Stearine acid candles.
Benzine.	Rapeseed oil.	Steel shapes:
Red.	Reamers.	Beams, all sizes.
Kerosene.	Reflector, searchlight.	Channels, all sizes.
Gasoline.	Rice.	Angles, all sizes.
Rapeseed.	Rice flour.	Tees and zeels.
Cylinder.	Red oil.	Steel, fabricated, struc- tural, including beams, channels, angles, tees, and zeels, and plates fabricated and shipped knocked down.
Oleo.	Rolled oats.	Steel plates, including ship boiler, tank, and all other steel plates ½ of an inch thick and heavier and wider than 6 inches and circles over 6 inches in diam- eter. This includes No. 11 U. S. gauge, but not No. 11 B. W. gauge.
Oxide of zinc.	Rope, manilla.	Steel hardening mate- rials.
Paper:	Rosin.	Steel:
Newsprint.	Rosin oil.	Ingot.
Book.	Rye.	Billets.
Paraffine.	Saddles.	Blooms.
Oil.	Sago flour.	Slabs.
Wax.	Sal ammoniac.	Sheet bars.
Paranitraniline.	Salt peter.	Scrap.
Peanuts.	Samp, Indian corn.	Tool.
Peanut butter.	Sawmill machinery (iron and steel).	High-speed.
Peanut oil.	Screw plates for cutting thread.	Steel alloys.
Petroleum.	Screw machines.	Sugar.
Petrolatum.	Screw machines, auto- matic.	Sugar of milk.
Petroleum jelly.	Seamless tubes.	Sulphate of copper.
Phenol (carbolic acid) and its derivatives.	Searchlights.	Sulphate of soda.
Phosphoric acid.	Searchlight and gener- ators suitable for Army and Navy use.	Sulphur.
Phosphate rock.	Sensitized potash.	Sulphate of ammonia.
Phosphate (sodium).	Sheet bars, steel.	Sulphate of antimony.
Phosphorized, 5 per cent tin.	Sheep manure.	Sulphate of alumina.
Phosphorus.	Slabs, steel.	Sulphate of barium.
Pigeons, carrier and others.	Ship stores.	Sulphate of iron.
Pig iron.	Shoes, leather.	Sulphate of quinine.
Pilchards, canned.	Shooks (if of wood speci- fied in the proclama- tion of Aug. 27, 1917).	Sulphide of antimony (stibnite).
Pillar presses, power driven.	Sirup.	Sulphurated castor oil.
Planers.	Sisal.	Sulphuric acid and its salts.
Planes (metal working, 36 inches and larger).	Silver nitrate.	Sulphuric acid.
Platinum.	Silver-plated ware.	Superphosphate.
Plated ware.	Skins.	Superheaters.
Plumbago.	Soap.	Tachometer.
Potash.	Soap powder.	Tallow.
Potash alum lumps.	Sodium.	Tallow candles.
Potash and its salts.	Sodium cyanide.	
Potassium bromide crys- tals.	Sodium fluoride.	
Potassium chlorate.	Sodium hyposulphite.	
Potassium permanganate.	Sodium bisulphate.	
Potassium salts.	Sodium sulphite.	
Potato manure.	Sodium phosphate.	
Potential transformers.	Sodium sulphide.	
Poudrette.	Solder.	
Poultry.	Soot.	
Prawn.	Soup paste.	
Printpaper.		

Tamales.	Tool steel.	Wireless apparatus and accessories.
Tank plates.	Toys (tin, brass, lead, etc.).	Wood:
Taps and dies (machine).	Tungsten.	Ash.
Tetranitroaniline.	Turbines.	Spruce.
Tetranitromethylaniline.	Turpentine.	Walnut.
Tees:	Turpentine, crude..	Mahogany.
Iron.	Turret holders.	Oak.
Steel.	Twine, binder.	Birch.
Telephone apparatus.	Twist drills.	Wood pulp.
Tetranitroethylaniline.	Type, printing.	Woodworking machinery, power driven.
Tin.	Tools:	Wool.
Tin, all articles containing.	Boiler.	Wool clippings.
Tin cans, except when used as containers.	Iron.	Wool products.
Tin foil.	Steel.	Wool rags.
Tin plate, terne plate.	Copper.	X-ray apparatus.
Toluol.	Vanadium.	Xylidine.
Toluol and its derivatives.	Vaseline.	Xylol.
Trinitrotoluol.	Vises (bench drill).	Zees:
Tools, machine.	Vegetable oils.	Iron.
Toluidine:	Vitriol blue.	Steel.
Ortnotoluidine.	Walnut, wood.	Zinc.
Paratoluidine.	Wetting.	Zinc oxide.
	Wheat, wheat flour.	Zinc sulphate.
	White enamel book paper.	Zinc white (dry).
	White lead (dry).	

Shippers should note that every article of commerce is included in the list of articles mentioned in the first division of the President's proclamation of August 27, and will therefore require licenses when shipped to Albania, Austria-Hungary, that portion of Belgium occupied by the military forces of Germany, Bulgaria, Denmark, (her colonies, possessions, or protectorates), Germany (her colonies, possessions, or protectorates), Greece, Liechtenstein, Luxemburg, the Kingdom of the Netherlands (in Europe), Norway, Spain (her colonies, possessions, or protectorates), Sweden, Switzerland, or Turkey (excluding any portion of the foregoing occupied by the military forces of the United States or the nations associated with the United States in the war) or any territory occupied by the military forces of Germany or her allies.

MAXIMUM PRICES FOR TANNED MATERIAL IN ITALY.

[Consul General David F. Wilbur, Genoa, Sept. 27.]

Maximum prices for certain tanned material have been fixed by a decree of the Minister of War, which was published in the Official Gazette at Rome on September 14, 1917. These prices are for material derived from skins of home production of animals slaughtered for military or civil use, and from those of foreign origin which heretofore have been distributed by the military administration. The respective maximum prices are given under the three separate designations—"for military use," "for civil use," and "foreign, distributed by military administration." The Government's list also presents figures for the various kinds of leather grouped under the general classifications: Sole leather, quick tanned; leather for uppers (white vegetable tanned); uppers of chrome black, and special leathers. All hides which are vegetable tanned, and upon which tanning extracts of any nature have been used, are classified as quick-tanned in fixing the sale price.

BOOT AND SHOE TRADE OF UNITED KINGDOM.[Special correspondence in *The Economist* (London), Sept. 15.]

The leather trade, owing to the fact that leather has so many uses in the production of accouterments, harness, saddlery, and clothing, has always seen great activity in war time. Some idea of the immensity of the demand for footwear will be obtained when it is stated that since the beginning of the war to the end of May, 1917, 40,000,000 pairs of boots had been purchased. In addition to these, which included about 8,700,000 pairs for our allies (7,000,000 for Russia alone), we supplied Russia with 6,000 tons of sole leather for repairing purposes.

The great majority of manufacturers of boots and shoes in the United Kingdom had had no previous experience of army footwear requirements and were quite unprepared for the immense demand. It is therefore a matter of surprise that this particular branch of the leather industry has performed, so far, its gigantic task with so little dislocation of the civilian trade. Prices for footwear are certainly high in this country, but they are only about one-fourth the prices in Germany and Austria.

Supplies of Leather for Civilian Use.

As regards conditions of production of boots and shoes, in the first place no proper appreciation of the quantities of leather required can be gained by stating the number of pairs of boots purchased, but it will at once be recognized that very original (and unusual) methods had to be adopted in order to insure the necessary supplies. * * * By elimination of speculation and a regulation of prices of hides and leather, the army and navy and the armies of our allies have been insured full supplies at the lowest possible cost.

The leather not suited for Government requirements has been more or less available for civilian trade, and, being in great request and uncontrolled, the value has advanced 100 to 120 per cent on pre-war prices, while some grades are fully 200 per cent higher and upper leather from 200 to 300 per cent dearer. In addition to increased cost of material there has been the big advance in cost of labor. Not only the actual intrinsic rise of 50 to 75 per cent, but an important factor in the advance is that, owing to the "combing out" of skilled operatives, their places had to be filled with female labor, which is adapted only for the lighter work that was previously done by youths and young men. For the harder and more complicated work female labor is not of much use, and consequently output suffers as regards both quality and quantity and therefore costs considerably more.

Measures Taken to Lower Prices.

But the boot and shoe trade, in addition to its consumption of English sole and upper leather, has always been heavily dependent upon imported supplies. America and Canada have in the past sent us big quantities of both, while European countries (enemy) sent upper leathers. India supplies kips, calf, goat, and sheep skins very largely, and Australia sent sides (heavy leather) and basils (sheep leather), besides large quantities of raw pelts. It should, however, be noted that for obvious official reasons (conservation of freights and adjustment of exchange) the import of leather except

for Government purposes is practically prohibited; consequently the civilian trade is dependent upon home-produced leather, for which naturally it has to pay very stiff prices.

So great was the deficiency that the Government departments released their big accumulations of light, common sole leather which they could not profitably use for the benefit of the repairing branch; this was done on August 21, and relieved the situation somewhat, although for heavy work (men's) the leather was unsuitable. The authorities have now gone one step further and are about to take control of all sole and offal leathers, with a view to reducing and fixing prices. This intimation was published in an army council order dated September 6.

Schemes for increasing output have apparently been engaging the Government's attention for some time. Firstly, there is a sort of implied understanding between the Royal Army Clothing Department and the boot manufacturers that the larger the output of army boots the larger the output will be permitted of civilian footwear, it being doubtless recognized that this branch must be cared for in the interests of the manufacturer, the consumer, and the export trade. It therefore follows that quite important outputs (by comparison with those of 1915) of civilian boots and shoes are being made, permitting moderately good quantities to be shipped abroad.

A Civilian Standard Boot.

The most important item of news in respect to civilian needs is that referring to the production of a standard boot—standard in pattern, material, and price. The scheme, of course, bristles with difficulties, but these will undoubtedly be overcome. The principle as to who may or may not purchase them will need stringent conditions attached, otherwise the limited output will not be nearly sufficient for that numerous section of the community for whom they are intended, viz., those whose wages have not advanced in proportion to the cost of living, and who are therefore unable to pay current prices for footwear.

At the time of writing the complete specifications are not passed, but it may be accepted as certain that the quality of the goods will be far superior to much of the stuff made for appearance. The prices, of course, can not be fixed until the specification is issued and costed, but it is hoped they will not exceed 13 to 16 shillings (\$3.15 to \$3.90) for men's and boys' town boots and about 20 shillings (\$4.85) for heavier wear. The French standard boot is of good material and costs about 28 francs (\$5.40) for men's and 23 francs (\$4.45) for girls' and youths'.

It is stated that the Government officials already have obtained moderate quantities of rough leather, which will be curried and finished for uppers, while it is probable that the big accumulation of 10 to 12 pound common bends may eventually be liberated for this purpose. Then, of course, after production the scheme of distribution has to be settled, including the profit to be allowed to the retailer.

Lend Your Money to the Government by Purchasing a Four Per Cent Liberty Bond.

NEW AMERICAN SCHOOL IN TAMPICO.

[Consul Claude I. Dawson, Tampico, Mexico, Oct. 1.]

The new American school of Tampico began sessions this morning with a faculty of four teachers and an enrollment of 75 pupils. Until the building now being erected is completed classes will be held in a rented building, which provides recreation space in addition to classrooms. The new building is expected to be ready for occupancy about the 1st of January. It will be a two-story eight-room structure, with a capacity for approximately 200 pupils. At first only the four lower rooms will be occupied. In addition to classrooms the building will provide cloak and lounging rooms; also complete sanitary installations. It is located in a conveniently situated suburb, outside but close enough to the city for the convenience of both urban and rural pupils.

Funds for the erection of the building and its equipment were raised by subscription among the foreign residents of Tampico; Americans being the instigators and chief supporters. The enterprise fills a long-felt want. Indirectly it will be of great benefit to the large oil companies, which have heretofore found difficulty in retaining the services of family men because of the lack of educational facilities.

The investment amounts to about \$20,000, including the cost of the building, land, equipment, and salaries of teachers for the current school year. This last item is included because the income of the school from tuition will, during the first year, fall far short of meeting current expenses.

OPERATIONS OF NEW ZEALAND GOVERNMENT RAILWAYS.

[Consul General Alfred A. Winslow, Auckland, Sept. 8.]

According to a late report of the Minister for Railways, the total earnings of the 2,970 miles of main lines of the New Zealand Government railways amounted to \$23,363,142 for the fiscal year ended March 31, 1917, an increase of \$1,228,567 over the previous year. During the year the expenditure amounted to \$14,243,584, leaving a net profit of \$9,119,558, which represents a return of 5.3 per cent on the capital invested in these lines by the Government, which to date amounts to about \$190,000,000.

There were 14,173,115 passengers carried, as compared with 14,201,506 for the previous year; and 5,826,265 tons of freight were handled, as compared with 5,960,562 tons, with 412,908 tons of live stock, as compared with 410,383 tons. The greater receipts were due to the increased passenger and freight rates charged, since the aggregate business done was less during the 1916-17 period than for 1915-16. The revenue estimated for the current year is \$20,439,300, and expenditure \$14,324,543.

It is not proposed to do much construction work during the present year, and but comparatively little was done during the past year; but preparations are made by the New Zealand Government for extensive railway improvements as soon as the war comes to a close.

Lend Your Money to the Government by Purchasing a Four Per Cent Liberty Bond.

FOOD AND FUEL CONSERVATION IN SWITZERLAND.

[Consul Lewis W. Haskell, Geneva, Sept. 7.]

The direction of the service of provisions for the Canton of Geneva by a recent regulation has forbidden retail grocers to sell rice for the present. It is ordered that this regulation shall be in effect during the season of vegetables and fresh fruits. It is designed that fresh vegetables and fruits shall be utilized to the fullest extent while they are available, thus relieving the strain on foods that can and must be used later.

Special Sugar Allotment for Preserves.

The same authorities have decreed that in addition to the regular allotment of 1 pound of sugar per inhabitant per month, there may be allowed a supplementary amount of 3 pounds of sugar in September to each inhabitant, provided this is used in the making of preserves. This is the second supplementary allowance of sugar for preserving purposes. The first one, of 5 pounds per inhabitant, was made early in the summer.

The card system is about to be applied to the sale of macaroni, vermicelli, etc. Only 250 grams (roughly one-half pound) will be allowed to each person per month. Bread cards are to come into effect on October 1. According to the provisions of this regulation each person will be entitled to receive 250 grams (one-half pound) of bread per day, and 500 grams (1 pound) of flour per month. It is announced that a supplementary daily allowance of bread will be made to day laborers, the exact amount to be decided later.

Distribution of Coal and Gas.

The Geneva cantonal authorities are now requiring all persons who desire coal for immediate and winter use to submit a declaration giving the number of persons in an apartment or dwelling which is to be heated, the number in the family, the number of rooms in the apartment or dwelling, and the supply of coal on hand. All of this information it is proposed to collate, and then issue orders allotting coal in proportion to the number in a family and the size of an apartment or dwelling. The number of cubic meters of gas that may be consumed by families is regulated on the same basis. These restrictions as to coal and gas will cause families to content themselves with much less than they have been accustomed to use. Many will have to turn to wood and electricity to augment their supplies.

NEW PARCEL-POST CONVENTION WITH SALVADOR.

A new parcel-post convention has been concluded between the United States and Salvador, under which the weight limit has been raised from 11 to 20 pounds and various other changes made. The sender of a registered parcel is entitled, in case of loss, damage, or rifling of the package, to an indemnity equal to the amount of the actual loss incurred, but not exceeding the equivalent of 50 francs. The graduated charges of 5 cents for the first pound and 1 cent per additional weight of 4 ounces collectible from the addressee have been eliminated. The charge now to be collected will be the usual delivery fee of 5 cents per parcel whatever its weight.

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the Bureau and its district and cooperative offices. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and state opportunity number. The Bureau does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases. Symbols: * Reported by American consular officers; † Reported by commercial attaches and commercial agents; ‡ Direct inquiries received by the Bureau.

In considering the following "opportunities" special regard should be had to the laws and regulations governing export licenses and trading with the enemy.

Agricultural machinery-----	25641	Hardware-----	25636
Blankets-----	25636	Iron and steel-----	25642
Buttons, collar and shirt-----	25640	Machinery-----	25637, 25641
Cement-----	25636	Motion-picture films-----	25638
Chemicals-----	25643	Oils-----	25636
Corrugated iron-----	25636	Roller skates-----	25639
Cotton piece goods-----	25636	Textile industry supplies-----	25643
Dyestuffs-----	25643	Toys-----	25639

25636.*—A firm in British East Africa desires to purchase unbleached cotton piece goods, 36 inches, 30 yards to the piece, and 25 pieces to the bale, each piece weighing from 6½ to 9 pounds; white cotton shirtings, 40 yards to the piece, 50 pieces to a case; white and colored cheap cotton blankets, packed 300 to the bale; general hardware; cement; corrugated iron; paints; oils; etc. Payment will be made by sight draft with bill of lading attached, except for unbleached goods, which will be paid for by cash against documents in New York. Prices should be quoted in English sterling. Twelve-ounce burlap wrapping should be used on bales, with extra strong strapping and waterproof lining. Case goods should be carefully packed. References.

25637.†—A man in Spain desires to be placed in communication with American manufacturers and exporters of machinery for making one-piece thumb tacks such as are used by artists in attaching papers to drawing boards, etc. Prices, discounts, and full information should be submitted. Reference.

25638.†—A man in Peru wishes to purchase the latest motion-picture films for exhibition in Peruvian and Chilean theaters.

25639.*—A company in Italy is in the market for large quantities of electrical and mechanical toys of all kinds, roller skates, etc. Catalogues and samples should be submitted wherever possible. Correspondence may be in English. Reference.

25640.†—A firm in Bolivia wishes to be placed in communication with American manufacturers and exporters of sets consisting of a pair of washed gold cuff buttons, three washed gold shirt-front buttons, and a collar button for the back, the latter to have a shorter shank than the shirt buttons, the set to sell at retail for 50 cents up in United States currency.

25641.*—An engineer in Switzerland desires to purchase or secure an agency for the sale of agricultural machinery, mining machinery, refrigerating machinery, electrical machinery and supplies, pumps and motors, motor cars and trucks, and machinery for tile kiln. Quotations may be made f. o. b. New York. Payment will be made by cash against documents in New York or confirmed credit with New York bank. Correspondence may be in English, but French is preferred. References.

25642.*—A company in Italy is in the market for large quantities of hard-steel billets, alloys, ferrosilicates, ferromanganese, and cast iron. Credit has been opened in New York for payment. Correspondence should be in French or Italian.

25643.*—An agency is desired by a firm in France for the sale of chemical products, dyestuffs, and all supplies relative to the bleaching, dyeing, printing, and finishing of tissues. Correspondence should be in French. Reference.

OFFICES OF THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE.

DISTRICT OFFICES.

NEW YORK: 784 Customhouse.
BOSTON: 1801 Customhouse.
CHICAGO: 504 Federal Building.
ST. LOUIS: 402 Third National Bank Building.
NEW ORLEANS: 1020 Hibernia Bank Building.
SAN FRANCISCO: 807 Customhouse.
SEATTLE: 848 Henry Building.

COOPERATIVE OFFICES.

CLEVELAND: Chamber of Commerce.
CINCINNATI: Chamber of Commerce.
CINCINNATI: General Freight Agent, Southern Railway, 96 Ingalls Building.
LOS ANGELES: Chamber of Commerce.
PHILADELPHIA: Chamber of Commerce.
CHATTANOOGA: South American Agent, Southern Railway System.
PORTLAND, OREG.: Chamber of Commerce.
DAYTON: Greater Dayton Association.

OCT 24 1917

PRINCETON N. J.

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No. 248

Washington, D. C., Tuesday, October 23

1917

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ADDITIONS TO BRITISH EMBARGO LIST.

The American consul general at London has reported by cable under date of October 19 the addition of certain articles to the list of goods prohibited to be exported from the United Kingdom. The symbols used are the following: (A) denoting prohibition to all destinations; (B) prohibition to all destinations other than British possessions and protectorates; (C) prohibition to all destinations in Europe and on the Mediterranean and Black Seas other than allied countries and Spain. The headings added are shown below:

(A) Aluminum, alloys of aluminum, and manufactures of aluminum or its alloys, acriflavine, proflavine, and other acridine derivatives carrying antiseptic or therapeutic properties and mixtures or preparations thereof; cresol, its compounds and preparations, and nitrocresol; coir fiber; fish hooks; goatskins; animal hair and tops, noils, mixtures, waste and yarns thereof; lead ore; agricultural machinery and component parts, including agricultural hand tools; hosiery and machine needles, latch and bearded; seal oil and mixtures; sheepskins, haired or woolled, and pelts; composite waxes; woodscrews of iron or steel; raw wool and mixtures, wool tops and mixtures, wool noils and wool waste and mixtures, woolen and worsted yarns and mixtures, woolen rags, shoddy and mungo, applicable to other uses than manure.

(B) Arsenical ore, arsenic, its compounds and mixtures; leather belting and manufacture suitable for textile machinery and leathers cut or shaped for hydraulic or pump purposes; fish oil not otherwise prohibited and mixtures; sandalwood for medicinal purposes; sandalwood oil; watches; waxes, animal, mineral, and vegetable, not otherwise prohibited.

(C) Fishing gear; essential oils except sandalwood and turpentine oils; Japanese tissue paper and similar cellulose paper; vegetable seeds not otherwise prohibited.

The following items from the former list are removed, being replaced in most cases by the new items given above:

(A) Aluminum, its alloys and manufactures; cresol, its compounds and preparations (except saponified cresol) and nitrocresol; agricultural machinery and component parts, including agricultural hand tools.

(B) Saponified cresol; fencing staples; goatskins; animal hair and tops, noils, mixtures, waste, and yarns thereof; lead ore; leather belting, hydraulic leather, pump leather, and leather manufactures suitable for textile machinery; hosiery and machine needles, latch and bearded; fish and seal oil not otherwise prohibited, and mixtures containing such oils; sheepskins, haired or woolled, and pelts; waxes, animal, mineral, vegetable, and composite; raw wool and mixtures; wool tops and mixtures, wool noils and wool waste and mixtures; woolen and worsted yarns and mixtures, woolen rags, shoddy, and mungo applicable to other uses than manure.

(C) Arsenical ore, arsenic and compounds and mixtures thereof; fishing gear; wire nails; essential oils except turpentine oil, Japanese tissue paper; wood screws of iron or steel.

[The British embargo list of May 10, 1917, together with corrections published at later dates, is on file in the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce and inquiries in regard to particular articles will be answered upon request.]

COMMERCIAL ATTACHÉ KENNEDY TOURING COUNTRY.

Commercial Attaché Philip B. Kennedy has returned to the United States and will make a tour of the country, traveling as far west as St. Louis, in order that American manufacturers and other interested in foreign commerce may have an opportunity to discuss with him the important features of our trade with Australia. Mr. Kennedy spent a week at the New York district office of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, then for several days was in Washington, and has now returned to New York, where he will remain until October 28. His proposed itinerary from that point will be as follows: Boston, October 29 and October 30, at district office; Cleveland, October 31 to November 3, at cooperative office (including one day in Akron); Detroit, November 5 and November 6, at board of trade; Chicago, November 7 to November 10, at district office; and St. Louis, November 12, at district office, arriving the middle of November in Washington, where he may be reached for a time at the Department of Commerce.

MEN'S READY-MADE CLOTHING MANUFACTURED AT GRENOBLE.

[Vice Consul William P. George, Grenoble, France, Sept. 10.]

Refugees from the war zone of France are bringing new industries to the uninvaded districts. A former manufacturer of men's ready-made clothing at Lille has leased temporary quarters preparatory to the opening up of a similar establishment here. He is the first to undertake this business in the Grenoble district, and he expects soon to be able to enlarge the enterprise to important dimensions. The manufacturer [whose name can be obtained at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district or cooperative offices by referring to file No. 93775] has a marked preference for American-made machinery.

BUREAU'S TRADE CATALOGUE COLLECTION.

A few weeks ago a notice was printed in **COMMERCE REPORTS** requesting American manufacturers and exporters to send copies of their catalogues to the Research Division of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce. In answer thereto many firms have already sent their catalogues (those both for home and foreign trade) to the Bureau; others are being received daily. This means is taken of acknowledging, with thanks, the courtesy of all who have complied with the Bureau's request, for it is manifestly impossible to write each firm individually.

Catalogues will be classified and catalogued in permanent form, in order that they may be readily accessible. The collection will be open within the Bureau for reference to anyone who desires to examine it. The object of the collection is to aid in the work of the Bureau in both its internal and external relations. In its internal relations the collection is designed to serve as a direct aid to Americans connected in any way with foreign and domestic commerce. It will be of service in the answering of numerous inquiries received from all parts of the United States and from abroad in regard to manufactured products, etc., and its usefulness for the after-the-war period, when the foreign trade of the world must be reorganized, rebuilt, and extended, already appears to be demonstrated. Catalogues for distribution in foreign countries, and printed in foreign languages, have a distinct technical value and will solve many questions raised about letters written in foreign languages. It is hoped that all new editions of catalogues will be sent to the Research Division of the Bureau upon publication, in order that the collection may be kept as nearly up to date as possible.

SQUID AND CARP AS ARTICLES OF FOOD.

In connection with experiments in the drying of squid as an article of food, the United States Bureau of Fisheries, at its Woods Hole laboratory, has made several determinations of the water, nitrogen, ash, and fat, and ascertained the time of artificial digestion. Squid meat consists of about 77 per cent water. Of the solids, about 5 per cent is fat, 7½ per cent ash, and 87 per cent protein. The last figure is exceptionally high. Squid meat digests more slowly than some other meats, such as herring, mackerel, and boiled egg white. This slow digestibility does not, of course, indicate any inferiority in food value, but suggests that it would properly be a part of the heavy meal of the day.

"Eat the carp" is the caption on an attractive poster which has been issued by the Bureau of Fisheries. It is used in a carp campaign which is now being conducted by the bureau independently and also in cooperation with the States' relation service of the Department of Agriculture. Prospective eaters of carp are invited to write for information and recipes. This campaign is intended to promote the fuller utilization of carp in regions in which it occurs as an abundant food fish.

"Your Patriotic Duty—Buy a Liberty Loan Bond."

BUSINESS CONDITIONS IN PUERTO CABELLO.

[Consul Frank Anderson Henry, Puerto Cabello, Venezuela, Sept. 17.]

The outstanding feature of the present business situation in this part of Venezuela is the low level to which the prices for the principal native products have fallen. As the ruling prices for imports are very high, the combination is obviously unfavorable to local commerce. The export situation as regards coffee and coca is due largely to the increasing difficulty of making deliveries in Europe, which causes New York prices to control the local market. The same influences seem to have depressed prices in New York. Substantial declines which have taken place there during the last month in the quotations for hides and goatskins are reflected locally. The following table shows the price changes in Puerto Cabello during recent months for the principal articles of export which are dealt in locally:

Articles.	Cents per pound.			
	Sept. 1, 1916.	Jan. 1, 1917.	June 1, 1917.	Sept. 1, 1917.
Cacao, first-class.....	17.3	15.5	12.3	12.3
Coffee, washed.....	11.4	10.5	9.1	9.3
Goatskins.....	22.8	43.8	41.8	22.8
Hides, dry.....	26.6	35.2	34.2	27.6

It is thought that a continuance of the situation outlined above will compel a curtailment of imports in the near future. The only favorable features are the large food crops which have been raised in Venezuela this year. In the case of maize and beans the yield has been large enough to permit a considerable export movement to the United States. These increased exports can not, however, compensate to any extent for the low prices of two staples—coffee and cacao. While this is normally the dull season, merchants state that business is far less active than in other years, and the commencement of the coffee crop in November is not expected to help matters greatly.

SANITATION AND GARBAGE DISPOSAL IN HONDURAS.

[Consul Francis J. Dyer, Tegucigalpa, Sept. 19.]

The city of Tegucigalpa, with its twin city of Comayagua, has about 40,000 inhabitants. The waterworks, electric-lighting system, and telephone exchange are all under public ownership and control. The only railroad in the Republic that is not run by a fruit or timber company is owned and operated by the Government, which also is building and maintaining wagon roads, and controls the telegraph system that serves all sections of the country.

The Government gives a great deal of attention to sanitation and public health, and in connection with its sanitary campaign it maintains a crematory for garbage in Tegucigalpa. This institution is to be supported by a tax levied on real estate, the smaller property owners to be exempt from the tax. Arrangements were made recently for the purchase in the United States of four motor trucks for the regular collection of garbage. Dr. Juan Maria Cuellar has assumed charge without salary, and from 5 to 8 tons of refuse are being burned daily. The cost of maintaining the crematory is stated to be \$3,300 gold annually.

IMPORTS OF RAW MATERIALS PASS BILLION-DOLLAR MARK.

For the first time in the history of American trade the imports of raw materials passed the billion-dollar mark during the fiscal year 1917. According to statistics published by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce of the Department of Commerce, the exact total was \$1,109,655,040, a noteworthy increase over the \$948,825,500 in 1916 and the \$632,865,860 in 1914, the last normal year before the war.

The raw materials now imported in the greatest quantities are hides, india rubber, raw silk, wool, raw cotton, copper ore, and flaxseed, and important increases are recorded for fur skins, gums, mineral oils, uncut diamonds, manganese ore, nickel ore, zinc ore, and dyewoods. The quantities and values of these imports during the fiscal year ended June 30, 1917, as compared with the normal year 1914, follow:

Articles.	1914		1917	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
Hides.....pounds..	561,070,686	\$120,289,781	700,207,497	\$216,363,609
India rubber.....do..	131,995,742	71,219,851	333,373,711	189,328,674
Silk, raw.....do..	28,594,672	97,828,243	33,886,885	156,085,849
Wool, unmanufactured.....do..	247,648,869	53,190,767	372,372,218	131,137,170
Fibers, unmanufactured.....tons..	418,432	54,349,965	408,618	67,709,758
Cotton, raw.....pounds..	123,346,899	19,456,588	147,061,635	40,429,528
Copper ore.....tons..	478,679	13,696,984	613,593	32,576,082
Flaxseed.....bushels..	8,653,235	10,571,410	12,393,988	25,149,669
Fur skins, undressed.....do..		8,840,321		21,563,375
Gums, crude.....do..		11,992,777		18,644,347
Mineral oils.....gallons..	773,052,480	11,776,737	1,034,590,849	14,109,035
Diamonds, uncut.....do..		7,519,688		11,717,175
Manganese ore.....tons..	288,706	1,841,451	656,098	10,545,998
Nickel ore.....do..	36,420	6,109,547	60,132	9,970,957
Zinc ore.....do..	18,280	251,479	324,767	7,596,930
Dyewoods.....do..	37,725	486,992	131,689	4,326,576

Only a few crude materials show decreases in 1917 compared with 1914. The principal classes follow:

Articles.	1914		1917	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
Leaf tobacco.....pounds..	60,107,512	\$35,029,055	46,136,347	\$25,481,979
Wood, unmanufactured.....do..		18,038,678		14,876,214
Iron ore.....tons..	2,167,662	6,984,577	1,149,958	3,986,742
Feathers, crude.....do..		4,871,663		1,479,216

LINOTYPE MACHINES FOR DOMINICAN REPUBLIC.

[Consul Clement S. Edwards, Santo Domingo, Sept. 21.]

The progress that is being made by the newspapers and publishing concerns of Santo Domingo is shown by the fact that during the past few months six linotype machines of American manufacture were purchased. Three will be installed in Santo Domingo City at the Listin Diario and El Tiempo, daily newspapers, and at the printing house of J. R. Viuda Garcia; one in Santiago at El Diario, a daily; one in Puerto Plata at Ecos del Norte, a daily; and one in La Vega at El Progreso, a daily.

PLATINUM DEPOSITS IN THE RONDA MOUNTAINS.

[Consul Louis G. Dreyfus, jr., Malaga, Spain, Aug. 31.]

Prospecting for platinum by the engineers of the Spanish Government still continues among the placer deposits in the Serrania de Ronda. The region that is being investigated lies near the coast, halfway between Malaga and Gibraltar, a little to the west of Marbella, and includes several rivers with substantial gravel deposits, among them the Verde and Guadaiza. Considerable preliminary work was done in 1914 and 1915. In February, 1916, the investigating commission under the direction of the Geological Institute was directed to continue its work and to study the deposits of chrome, magnetite, and nickel, which are desired for military purposes. Since then the work has been slowly progressing.

Determination of Commercial Value.

In the investigation of the platiniferous placers, holes have been dug at intervals of 200 meters (656 feet), and between these soundings have been made every 20 meters. The detailed results have been carefully noted, so that the commercial value is determined with comparative accuracy. The deposits along the River Verde have all been tested, and along the Guadaiza the examination is nearly completed. On both of these rivers a quantity of platinum is said to have been found which, though not extraordinary, may be regarded as favorable enough from an industrial point of view, considering the present prices of this metal. While the investigation on the Guadaiza is not yet ended, it is believed that the quantity of platinum there is greater than on the Verde and that the average depth is somewhat smaller—not in excess of 33 feet on the Guadaiza and 49 feet on the Verde.

On the Verde 68 holes have been dug, making a total depth of 776 meters (2,546 feet), from which 24,079 liters (683 bushels) of material were taken and washed to determine the platinum contents. On the Guadaiza 109 holes have been dug, making a total depth of 872 meters (2,861 feet), from which 21,800 liters (618 bushels) of sand were taken and washed. This work has been carried on with two imported secondhand drills. Operations were discontinued for the summer because of the lack of water and the difficulty of boring. The prevailing heat and miasma also make it advisable to suspend work from July until September.

Prospecting for Other Minerals.

In prospecting for other minerals the region has been divided into areas of 2 to 5 square kilometers (square kilometer=0.386 square mile), which are being investigated progressively by groups of 8 to 10 men, looking over the ground meter by meter and sending samples to the central office for analysis. It has been established thus far that there are 10 deposits of rich chrome which may be exploited, and from 16 to 18 of magnetite and chrome iron. Deposits of nickel, which is the most important of the metals for military purposes, have been found in quantities which are expected to meet the needs of the Spanish industry for several decades at the rate it is now being consumed.

It is noteworthy that the predominating metal in these beds of nickel is garnierite, with 16 to 20 per cent nickel contents. This is at

least the equal of the average that is found to-day in the Canadian and New Caledonian mines.

It will take more than three years to complete the investigation of the Serrania de Ronda, so that probably not until the end of 1920 will it be possible to know definitely the commercial importance of the Ronda deposits.

[The discovery of platinum in the Ronda Mountain region was mentioned in a dispatch published in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for Dec. 11, 1915.]

COLOMBIAN TRADE WITH UNITED STATES.

[American Chargé d'Affaires, Bogotá, Sept. 8.]

The Colombia Railway & Navigation Co. (Ltd.), a British corporation (Pineda Lopez & Co., of Colombia, agents), is conducting trials of wood as a fuel on the Cartagena Railroad, in anticipation of probable difficulty in obtaining coal from the United States.

The Compañía Salinera de los Andes (Salt Co. of the Andes), of Bogotá, a Colombian corporation, recently ordered machinery and motors from the United States, for the operation of its salt mines at Zipaquirá, Department of Cundinamarca.

Two Projects for Railway Bridges.

The Government of Colombia is expecting the delivery in November or December, 1917, of an iron railway bridge to cross the River Coello or Chicoral, Department of Tolima, in connection with the Tolima Railroad, now under construction. This bridge has been ordered from an American firm.

The Minister of Public Works has recommended to Congress that the Girardot Railway be connected with the Tolima road by means of a long iron bridge across the Magdalena River. This bridge would be an expensive one to erect.

Seek Concession for Petroleum Wells.

A representative of a group of American promoters is in Bogotá endeavoring to obtain the transfer of an important concession for the development of petroleum lands. This concession at present is held by a Colombian citizen. The lands are said to be rich in mineral oil.

The representative of certain American shoe manufacturers, now in Bogotá, has met with success, and has contracted many large orders.

SITE SELECTED FOR NEW GLASS WORKS AT MONCTON.

[Consul E. Verne Richardson, Moncton, New Brunswick, Canada, Sept. 29.]

The proposed establishment of a glass-manufacturing industry in Moncton has been further advanced by the selection of the site upon which the plant will be erected. [Mention of this industry was made in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for June 6 and Sept. 14.] For the present it is planned to erect but one oven for the manufacture of lamp chimneys, but later when the work gets well under way a larger furnace for making bottles will be built. It is expected that the works will be producing by the last of November, when about 70 hands will be employed.

FIRST OF STANDARD BRITISH SHIPS NOW IN COMMISSION.

[Vice Consul Thomas H. Bevan, Glasgow, Scotland, Aug. 30.]

The first of the standardized ships built under the specifications of the British Government has completed its final tests, and has been put into commission as a cargo carrier. In every respect the trial proved an unqualified success. It was of a most exhaustive and comprehensive nature, and the experts who were aboard were unanimous in their praise of the ship, which marks a new epoch in the maritime history of Great Britain. A choppy sea and rain squalls prevailed during the trials, but these conditions served only to enhance the steadiness and seaworthiness of the craft.

The standardized vessel was designed with the idea of providing a good type of cargo carrier in the shortest possible time, with the minimum expenditure of material, having regard to war conditions, which involve the question of speed.

The keel was laid in February, 1917, and on August 25, 1917, in less than six months, the first ship was fully loaded and ready to proceed on its maiden voyage.

Varied Types of Standardized Ships.

In reality there are two types of standardized vessels of 8,000 tons dead-weight carrying capacity. These are classified as "A" and "B"—single-deck and double-deck ships. The first one is of class "A."

It is understood that the Government intends also to construct two smaller types—class "C," of 5,000 tons dead-weight, and class "D," of 3,000 tons. Other types are said to be under consideration.

The machinery and engines, as well as the hull, are standardized, so that the first engine goes into the hull complete. This is a great advantage, as builders have frequently had the experience of being compelled to wait some time for the installation of the machinery. Engines and machinery lend themselves more readily to standardization than the ship itself, as variations occur in the construction of the vessels owing to the difference in facilities at the respective yards.

Special attention has been devoted to the question of speed, with a view to attaining the maximum number of knots for the service in which the vessel is to be employed. Features of the general equipment are the very large hatchways, which make the ship as nearly self-trimming as possible. This greatly facilitates loading and discharging. In fact, the central idea is that such steamers not only should be built quickly, but also should be capable of being worked economically and speedily. In the opinion of the experts, the type is a very efficient cargo carrier, and there should not be the slightest difficulty in selling such vessels to private owners after the war.

Quarters for the Crew.

The accommodations provided for the crew have been given the closest attention, with the result that the provision made marks a big advance as compared with sailors' quarters in ordinary cargo steamers, and particularly those of the "tramp" class.

The members of the crew are berthed aft in the poop, instead of in the forecastle, as has been the general rule hitherto, and separate apartments are provided, each fitted with two berths. Messing quar-

ters are entirely separated from the sleeping compartments; a smoke room is provided for general use, and special arrangements are made for steam heat in the men's quarters. There is also a bathroom for the crew.

The practical demonstration of the ship before several technical experts occupied many hours, and the results obtained in every case surpassed the estimates.

REQUIREMENTS FOR DOMINICAN PROFESSIONAL LICENSES.

[Consul Arthur McLean, Puerto Plata, Sept. 11.]

In order to practice medicine, dentistry, and pharmacy in the Dominican Republic it is necessary for a foreigner to pass an examination before the Professional Institute in Santo Domingo City. This examination, which must be taken in Spanish, consists of two hours of theory the first day, and on the second day two hours of practice on a case selected by the examiners. The successful candidate is given a certificate by the Institute. In addition to passing the examination before the Professional Institute it is necessary for the applicant to present a diploma from a college of recognized standing in the profession, duly registered and legalized. He is also obliged to furnish letters of identity and recommendation and a certificate of morality and character issued by a competent authority. If the examination is passed successfully and the other requirements are complied with, a license to practice is granted by the Secretary of State of the Dominican Republic.

Dominican medical students usually complete the course at the medical school of the University of Santo Domingo and then finish their studies in the University of Paris. Almost all of the dentists and pharmacists are graduates of institutions in the United States.

There are no American doctors, dentists, or pharmacists practicing in the Dominican Republic. Of the foreign doctors, one is Scotch, one Canadian, three Spanish, and three Italian. The dentists and pharmacists are almost without exception Dominicans.

COMMERCIAL AND CREDIT REPORTS ON CHILEAN FIRMS.

[Consul General L. J. Keena, Valparaiso.]

Mr. S. Metz, South American representative of the Guaranty Trust Co., of New York (office address, 25 de Mayo 182, Buenos Aires, Argentina), has informed the Valparaiso consulate general that the Guaranty Trust Co. is prepared to furnish credit information on business houses and individuals in this district of Chile.

OF INTEREST TO AMERICAN LACE DEALERS.

The American consul at Saigon, French Indo-China, reports that a man in that country is anxious to be placed in communication with purchasers of Tonkin lace. The name and address of this party may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district or cooperative offices by referring to file No. 91963.

CONDITION OF CROPS IN HOLLAND.

[Consul Frank W. Mahin, Amsterdam, Sept. 24.]

Excessive rains in August, about double the normal quantity for that month, were injurious to the Netherlands crops in general. All grains suffered, oats and barley the most, rye apparently the least. The yield of straw from all grains is small.

Of vegetables, peas were the most injured by the rains.

The grain crop is best in the northern Provinces, where it is generally good, without much difference between the various kinds. More southerly, it is only moderate. The average for the whole country is "rather good."

Flax is fairly good in some localities, but on the whole is only moderate. The August rains seriously injured it.

Peas and some varieties of beans are only moderate, as an average; but the crop of brown and white beans is good.

Beets of all kinds are good, and most other vegetables are at least fair.

The following figures give the official grade of crops on September 15: One hundred is excellent, 90 is very good, 70 is good, 60 is rather good, 50 is moderate, 40 is rather bad, 30 is bad, and 10 is a failure. The average is placed at 67: Wheat, 57; rye, 65; barley, 65; oats, 56; buckwheat, 52; flax, 48; horse beans, 49; brown and white beans, 71; peas, 51; potatoes, 73; sugar beets, 71; chicory, 69; onions, 58; clover, 60; meadows, 70.

Increased Potato Crop.

As the potato crop was of the utmost importance, a special investigation has been made, which shows that it is exceptionally good this year, in both quantity and quality. It was feared that the heavy and persistent rain in August would injure the developing potatoes, but apparently it did not. In Friesland the crop promises to be 30 per cent larger than in 1916, while in Croningen the increase is placed as high as 100 per cent. The prospects in other Provinces are similar.

The total area planted to potatoes for ordinary consumption is 137,000 hectares (339,000 acres) this year against 131,000 hectares (324,000 acres) in 1916; for making potato flour, 32,000 hectares (79,000 acres) this year and 35,000 hectares (86,500 acres) in 1916. It is evident from these figures that the greater crop this year can be accounted for in only a small degree by increased area.

The large promised yield should insure against a recurrence of the potato riots of last June and July in Amsterdam. It should make an abundant supply for the local demand—probably a surplus; no doubt suspending the futile attempts which have been made to induce the Dutch masses to eat rice as a substitute for potatoes. They will not do it. Rice is relatively plentiful, and has been prepared in different ways at the municipal kitchen to tempt the public, but all in vain.

Second Crop of Hay.

The August rains much improved the condition of the grass lands and increased the second cutting of hay. This crop is now ranked as good, whereas a month ago it was considered almost a failure. After

the beneficial rains of August, September came with dry and sunny weather, which materially aided in taking in the hay crop.

Besides this unexpectedly good yield of hay, the pastures are giving satisfactory grazing for cows and other live stock.

ROAD BUILDING IN THE FOOCHOW DISTRICT.

[Consul Albert W. Pontius, Foochow, China, Aug. 31.]

The Foochow district has been conspicuous for its absence of roads. A network of thousands of miles of narrow stone footpaths suitable only for pack carrying by coolies supplied this section of China with its sole means of distributing goods by land. The stone "roads" on the whole were in so deplorable a condition that the use of pack animals was out of the question. In order to demonstrate in a practical manner the advantages of good roads the local authorities recently completed the construction of about 12 miles of macadam road in and about the city of Foochow. The innovation was received with enthusiasm, and within a year 838 jinrikishas, 90 bicycles, and 48 carriages were in use on the road.

Highway Projects for the Future.

The authorities, backed by the native chamber of commerce, now propose to construct a macadam highway along the river for a distance of 7 miles to the upper stone bridge. It is planned to purchase suitable motor vehicles for use on this new stretch of road. The route has been surveyed, and it is expected that \$65,000 will be spent on its construction and the purchase of the motor vehicles to be used for freight and passenger traffic. Following the completion of this project, it is probable that a road connecting Foochow with Pagoda Anchorage, the steamer port of arrival, 12 miles down the river, will be laid out.

COTTON SEED AND COTTONSEED PRODUCTS.

The United States Bureau of the Census reports that the quantity of cotton seed received at the mills from August 1 to September 30, 1917, was 574,353 tons; that the quantity crushed between those dates was 256,681 tons, and that the quantity on hand at the mills September 30 was 351,599 tons.

The statistics of cottonseed products manufactured, shipped out, and on hand is as follows:

Items.	On hand Aug. 1.	Produced Aug. 1 to Sept. 30.	Shipped out Aug. 1 to Sept. 30.	On hand Sept. 30.
Crude oil.....pounds..	a 15,477,352	75,108,913	59,566,344	a 40,068,262
Refined oil.....do..	b 298,757,126	c 39,000,761		b 113,773,127
Cake and meal.....tons..	92,540	123,431	123,846	92,125
Hulls.....do..	56,016	59,000	76,952	38,164
Linters.....500-pound bales..	102,754	65,512	60,150	d 128,596
Hull fiber.....do..	6,371	52,206	55,375	d 3,368
Motes, grabbotts, and sweepings.....do..	8,207	1,023	3,406	d 6,321

* Includes 2,918,450 and 1,492,136 pounds held by refining and manufacturing establishments, and 3,371,700 and 13,846,355 pounds in transit to refiners and consumers Aug. 1 and Sept. 30, respectively.

b Includes 15,200,429 and 11,258,444 pounds held by refiners, brokers, agents, and warehousemen at places other than refineries and manufacturing establishments, and 3,851,445 and 7,574,711 pounds in transit to manufacturers of lard substitute, oleomargarine, soap, etc., Aug. 1 and Sept. 30, respectively.

c Produced from 43,259,140 pounds crude oil.

d Includes 10,479 bales of linters, 166 bales of hull fiber, and 496 bales of motes, grabbotts, and sweepings stored elsewhere than at the mills.

TRADE CONDITIONS IN CHANGSHA CONSULAR DISTRICT.*[Consul N. T. Johnson, Changsha, China.]*

Under the title, "Pertinent Facts American Exporters Should Know About the Changsha Consular District," this consulate has prepared a circular letter covering trade conditions in the Changsha district, extracts from which are quoted below:

The Changsha consular district comprises the whole of the Province of Hunan. An examination of a map of China will disclose that this Province is located almost in the center of China proper, i. e., China exclusive of Tibet, Sin Kiang, Mongolia, and Manchuria. It lies between the twenty-fifth and thirtieth parallels and the one hundred and ninth and one hundred and fourteenth meridians. It is south of the Tungting Lake and the Yangtze River. Its area is given as approximately 84,000 square miles. A similar area would cover a district as large as the State of Kansas, and would be situated in the same latitude as the Gulf of Mexico and Florida. The population is estimated at 22,169,000, or 265 persons per square mile. This would equal approximately the combined populations of the States of New York, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, Connecticut, and New Jersey. The population is mostly rural, the people being generally collected in small villages and towns throughout the Province. Few of the cities of Hunan number over 50,000 inhabitants; of these may be mentioned Changsha, the provincial capital, population 230,000; Siantan, population approximately 120,000; Hengchow, 100,000; Paoking, 125,000. Yochow, Hunan's only treaty port other than Changsha, has a population estimated at but 5,000.

The climate is a continental climate tempered by the low latitude. Snow falls during January as far south as Hengchow. The temperature ranges at Changsha between 32° and 100° F. The cold of the winters is penetrating by reason of the moisture in the air, while the heat of the summer is somewhat oppressive for the same reason. At the same time the weather is characterized by many fluctuations in temperature, so that, taken as a whole, the climate may be considered ideally suited to life and sustained work. Changsha has an average annual rainfall of 60 inches.

The Province is hilly, mountainous along the western, southern, eastern, and northwestern borders. The provincial watersheds, from which the four principal rivers, the Slang, the Tzu, the Yuan, and the Li, flow north and northeast into Tungting Lake, form natural boundaries with bordering Provinces.

Transportation Facilities.

Transportation facilities are at present limited to the waterways and to the completed part of the Hankow Canton Railway between Hankow on the Yangtze River and Chuchow on the Slang River, which passes through Changsha, 225 miles from Hankow. Chuchow is 30 miles south of Changsha and is connected with the colliery at Pingsiang in Kiangsi Province by a railway 60 miles long. The Canton-Hankow Railway is to be completed through to Canton beyond Chuchow. A contract has been let for the construction of a railway between Changsha and Nanking on the Yangtze River. Another contract has been let for a railway which will connect Changsha with Changteh and which will run west through the Yuan River Valley into Kweichow Province. A reconnaissance survey has just been completed for a railway to be constructed by American capital between Chuchow and Paoking in the center of the Province.

In the past the farmers and merchants of Hunan have not felt the need of better transportation facilities than nature furnished. The Province is well supplied with waterways navigable by junks and shallow craft. Totalling the areas of the river basins as given by Richthofen, we obtain the following very interesting results, in statute square miles: Hsiang River, 39,000; Tzu River, 10,000; Yuan River, 22,500; Li River, 8,000; total, 79,500 square miles. When it is remembered that the area of the entire Province is estimated at 84,000 statute square miles, it will be seen that only about 5 per cent of the total area of the Province is not accessible to its waterways.

There are no roads in the Western sense of the word. Narrow paths paved with a foot-wide line of granite for the accommodation of wheelbarrows—practically the only wheeled vehicle in the Province—connect all the cities, towns, and villages. The provincial authorities are now engaged (1917) in completing a military road between Changsha and Paoking by way of Siantan,

which was begun some years ago. When completed it will be about 130 miles long.

Shallow-draft British, Japanese, and Chinese steamers (drawing 9 feet) ply between Hankow and Changsha. These steamers also go as far south on the Siang River as Siangtan. Similar river steamers connect Hankow and Changteh during high water. The Chinese line is the only one that has through steamer connections between Changsha and Shanghai.

Resources and Exports.

The natural resources of Hunan Province are varied, and, according to reports, extensive. Large coal fields are found in the southeastern and coal and iron in the south-central sections. Antimony is one of the chief metals produced. Lead, zinc, and tin are found in the south, cinnabar, tungsten, and gold in the west, and realgar, sulphur, and gold in the north and northwest sections.

Some 60 per cent of the inhabitants of the Province maintain themselves by tilling the soil. The money crops of the Hunan farmer are rice, wheat, cotton, maize, beans (various kinds), sesame, buckwheat, kaoliang, ramie grass, *Pueraria Thumbergiana* (from which a fiber is extracted for cloth making), coir fiber, the wood-oil tree, the tea-oil tree (*Camellia sasanqua*), rape seed, lily root, lily seeds, tea, sweet potatoes, peanuts, beech, tobacco, oranges, and pomeloes. Of these farm crops there are exported to foreign countries beans, tea oil, sesame seed, and sesame-seed oil, wood oil, and tea. Cow and water-buffalo hides are also exported in quantities.

The exports of the Province may be divided between the products of the mines and the products of the farm. The total value of the exports (declared at the Changsha customhouse) for 1916 amounted to \$12,340,911 United States currency. Of this, Hunan's mines furnished: Arsenic, \$60,320; antimony regulus, \$7,316,371; antimony ore, \$42,831; lead ore, \$368,893; tin in slabs, \$25,334; zinc ore, \$2,585. The principal products of the farm exported were: Bamboo shoots, \$51,957; beans, \$14,457; bristles, \$53,921; rice, \$349,083; coir fiber, \$18,363; hemp (including ramie fiber), \$200,670; grass cloth, \$170,798; cow and buffalo hides, \$187,664; medicines, \$34,906; paper (made of bamboo pulp), \$130,700; lotus seeds, \$47,283; tea stalk, \$16,831. The Province produces large quantities of firecrackers, exports of which in 1916 amounted to \$509,675, and there was also exported \$32,973 worth of human hair.

Besides the above, which are to be found in the declared statistics published by the customs, there are very important exports of tea (black), wood oil, tea oil, and lumber, which do not appear in published statistics. Little or none of the exports go direct to foreign markets from Hunan. They are collected at Hankow or Shanghai, to be repacked and re-sorted for final shipment.

Credits—Opening for American Goods.

The Hunan merchant at the present time secures most of his supplies of foreign goods through the import houses at Hankow and Shanghai. The severe fluctuation in foreign exchange has been the chief cause in restricting business to the larger treaty ports, where is found all the machinery for taking care of risks due to uncertain exchange conditions. Credit terms are therefore regulated by Shanghai and Hankow custom. Generally speaking, it has been the practice of foreign competitors of American manufacturers and merchants to extend to the Chinese buyers long and easy credit terms. They are enabled to do this by an exchange of commodities. With the exception of tea, hides, and antimony, most of Hunan's products go to European countries, and it is to be noticed that tea, hides, and antimony are exported from Hunan by American firms which do not do an import business. The Chinese merchants are not as yet in a position to deal direct with the United States. They prefer at the present time to deal with the import houses in Shanghai.

American merchants should be prepared to quote prices on their products at least c. i. f. Shanghai, and if possible c. i. f. Changsha. The Chinese merchant has to figure his profits in silver, not in gold, and it is therefore of first importance to him to be able to figure on the gold cost of the article laid down at a port of delivery in China. There are no banks at Shangsha dealing in foreign exchange. Exchange is negotiated for through the foreign exchange banks at Hankow and Shanghai.

No prejudice against American goods exists in this market. It is not possible to form any accurate idea of the value and amount of the imports of the Province which come from the United States. American proprietary medicines,

toilet articles, such as tooth powders, tooth brushes, and soaps, locks, hinges, nails, screws, hand tools, provisions, garters, and electric fittings are occupying a more and more prominent place on the shelves of the local shopkeepers. American mining machinery and steelwork have been sold in this district and appear to give satisfaction. American illuminating and lubricating oils are imported in large quantities, maintaining their place in the market by reason of their high quality.

American manufacturers shipping their products into the district must remember that there are no direct steamer connections between this inland district and the United States. All cargo is transshipped either at Shanghai or at Hankow into light-draft river steamers or lighters which bring cargo to Changsha. Changsha is now connected with Hankow by a railway so that the difficulties of the past due to low water during the winter months are no longer to be considered.

Introductory Methods—"Don'ts" to be Carefully Noted.

An American manufacturer seriously intending to enter this market should establish an agent at either Hankow or Shanghai and supply him with a stock for purposes of demonstration and sale. He should enable him to visit this district periodically, and he should encourage said agent to get into personal touch with local Chinese merchants. Such an agent should be encouraged to learn the Chinese language, i. e., enough of the vernacular to make himself understood so that he can enter into personal relations with the Chinese merchants without the intermediation of an interpreter. The secret of the success of European merchants in this market has been the ability of the European manufacturers' agents to speak the language of the Chinese merchants with whom they were doing business. Such an agent should be encouraged to advertise his wares in the local vernacular press and by posters pasted on street billboards. The banquet table is another advertising medium that should not be neglected. There are no clubs or other neutral meeting grounds where foreign merchant and Chinese business man can mingle and get acquainted. Much has been accomplished, however, through the informal goodfellowship of the banquet table, and I would suggest that agents be supplied with a liberal entertainment allowance. Agents should be men of good bearing. They should be given to understand that nothing of permanent value is to be accomplished in China by rush and impatience. The average Chinese merchant is not going to be much impressed with a young man of impatient manners who spends most of his time telling him how to run his business. Your agent must also understand that the Chinese merchants in this district are ready to learn about his goods—indeed, a great deal of his time will have to be devoted to creating a demand, to studying the possible wants of the market, and then bringing something in that will meet the need. There will be many opportunities for the agent to create thus a demand for mining machinery, for machinery for the preparation of rice, tea, and vegetable oils, and for other manufactured articles.

The Changsha consulate makes full use of all catalogues and price lists received. A file of such commercial literature is kept well indexed so that it can conveniently be consulted by interested inquirers. Frankly speaking, however, unless catalogue and price list have been printed in the Chinese language they are of little use here. The Chinese merchants at Changsha can not read English and consequently are not interested in an English catalogue with its cabalistic signs and descriptions and prices f. o. b. some (to the Chinese) unknown factory town in the United States. The catalogue and letter can not take the place of the personal interview of the active agent with samples and stock.

Don't fail to pay full postage on your letters, which, in the case of Changsha, is 5 cents for the first ounce and 3 cents for each additional ounce or fraction. You must not expect the trade of this country to come to you. There are too many active agents in the field seeking the trade, and therefore the trade does not need to take the trouble to go to you. Your goods may be indispensable to users in the United States, but they may never have been heard of here. Don't fail to mark your cases very clearly on top, one side, and one end, with characters at least 2½ inches high. Don't fail to pack your goods well; they encounter numerous transshipments, and goods are not handled any more tenderly by the stevedore in China than in the United States. In packing it should also be remembered that this climate is damp.

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PROPOSALS FOR GOVERNMENT SUPPLIES AND CONSTRUCTION.

[Correspondence should be direct with the offices named, and specifications and other information can usually be obtained at the points where the goods are to be delivered or the work is to be performed. In cases where the time limit is too short to permit firms to submit tenders, they should ask to be placed on the mailing lists of such offices to receive notices calling for future supplies or work of a similar nature.]

Paper, No. 4853.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the Superintendent, Coast and Geodetic Survey, 205 New Jersey Avenue SE., Washington, D. C., until October 31, 1917, for furnishing 130 reams of first-class ledger paper.

Navy Department supplies, No. 4854.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Bureau of Supplies and Accounts, Navy Department, Washington, D. C., until the dates given, and bidders desiring to submit proposals should give schedule numbers for furnishing the following: November 6, 1917, schedule 1535, cold-rolled plain sheet copper; schedule 1536, sheet lead in rolls, sheet tin roofing (terneplate), lead pipe in commercial coils, and lead pipe lining; schedule 1537, lump 80 per cent standard ferromanganese, pig 11 per cent Bessemer ferrosilicon, rosin core half-and-half bar solder wire, long-grain spelter solder, and wiping solder; schedule 1538, regular extra-strong double-welded black steel galvanized pipe, and lap-welded black steel tubing; schedule 1539, class D bell-and-spigot extra-heavy cast-iron soil pipe, and bell-and-spigot terra-cotta pipe; schedule 1541, seamless-drawn copper tubing; schedule 1542, brass tubing tinned inside and out; schedule 1543, regular seamless-drawn brass pipe, regular seamless-drawn copper pipe, regular extra-strong seamless brass pipe and tubing, seamless copper pipe and tubing, and hard-drawn seamless copper tubing; and schedule 1545, portable steel building, and 12 by 29½ inches double-thick glass. November 13, 1917, schedule 1540, motor-driven direct-connected squaring shears; and schedule 1546, duplex milling machines, base 29 by 33 inches. October 30, 1917, schedule 1544, general service gondola cars, and 8,000-gallon steel tank cars.

Building construction, No. 4855.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Bureau of Yards and Docks, Navy Department, Washington, D. C., until November 5, 1917, for a three-story and attic marine barracks building at the navy yard, Philadelphia, Pa. Specifications No. 2555.

Post-office buildings, No. 4856.—Sealed proposals will be received until the dates given for the construction of the following post-office buildings: November 22, 1917, at Basin, Wyo.; November 5, 1917, at Burlington, N. C.; November 20, 1917, at Caribou, Me.; November 13, 1917, at Harrisonville, Mo.; November 23, 1917, at Woodbury, N. J.; November 2, 1917, at Valparaiso, Ind.; October 31, 1917, at Hollidaysburg, Pa.; November 1, 1917, at Kenton, Ohio; and October 30, 1917, at Farmville, Va.

Subsistence stores, No. 4857.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the Quartermaster, 211 American Bank Building, Kansas City, Mo., until November 1, 1917, for delivery at Kansas City, Mo., canned salmon, soap, canned apples, evaporated milk, and tapioca.

Iron shackles, No. 4858.—Sealed proposals will be received by the Lighthouse Inspector, Tompkinsville, N. Y., until November 5, 1917, for 3,108 shackles for buoy chains, and 3 cone and 1 mooring buoys.

Lumber, No. 4859.—Sealed proposals will be received at the United States Engineer Office, Customhouse, New Orleans, La., until November 13, 1917, for furnishing and delivering piles, walings, and lumber on the bank or wharves in Southwest Pass, Mississippi River.

Subsistence supplies, No. 4860.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the Depot Quartermaster, 211 American Bank Building, Kansas City, Mo., until October 25, 1917, for delivery on or before November 25, 1917, of 100,000 pounds of potatoes, 16,000 pounds of onions, 6,000 pounds of butter, 1,800 pounds of oleomargarine, 1,500 pounds of bacon, 6,000 pounds of butter in sales prints, 1,600 pounds of cream cheese, and 600 pounds of compressed yeast.

Riprap work, No. 4861.—Sealed proposals will be received by the Lighthouse Inspector, Post Office Building, Detroit, Mich., until November 1, 1917, for riprap work, Brush Point Range Front Light, Mich.

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the Bureau and its district and cooperative offices. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and state opportunity number. The Bureau does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases. Symbols: * Reported by American consular officers; † Reported by commercial attachés and commercial agents; ‡ Direct inquiries received by the Bureau.

In considering the following "opportunities" special regard should be had to the laws and regulations governing export licenses and trading with the enemy.

Chemicals.....	25645	Machinery.....	25650
Condensed milk.....	25651	Mineral oils.....	25646
Dental supplies.....	25653	Pencils.....	25648
Fountain pens.....	25618	Pens.....	25648
Hosiery.....	25651	Pianos.....	25647
Kerosene.....	25644	Piece goods.....	25651
Laboratory equipment.....	25646	Stationery supplies.....	25648
Lamps, miners'.....	25650	Tracing paper.....	25648
Machine tools.....	25648	Underwear.....	25651

25644.*—A firm in New Zealand desires to purchase benzine, distillate kerosene, in shipments up to 20,000 cases. Quotations may be made f. o. b. steamer American port. Payment will be made by letter of credit or draft against documents. Correspondence may be in English. References.

25645.*—An agency is desired by a firm in Switzerland for the sale of heavy and light chemicals and mineral oils in large quantities. Samples should be submitted. Quotations should be made f. o. b. New York with approximate estimate of cost of shipping on neutral steamer to French port. Payment will be made by agency terms or against bill of lading in New York, France, or Switzerland. Goods should be packed so as to withstand long storage. Correspondence may be in English. Catalogues, if possible, should be in French. References.

25646.†—A mining engineer in charge of assay work for a foreign government desires to purchase complete equipment and supplies for a chemical and metallurgical laboratory. Quotations should be made f. o. b. American port. Correspondence should be in Spanish.

25647.*—An agency is desired by a man in French Indo-China for the sale of pianos, especially those adapted for colonies in tropical climates. Payment is preferred to be made by 60 or 90 day draft. Correspondence should be in French. References.

25648.*—A firm in Japan desires to purchase thin tracing paper with luster finish; lead pencils, especially flat pencils with flat leads; steel pens, carbon paper, fountain pens, and stationery supplies in general. Samples, prices, etc., should be submitted as soon as possible. Payment will be made by sight draft. Correspondence may be in English. Reference.

25649.‡—An agency is desired by a firm in France for the sale of machine tools, borers, planers, etc. Interested persons may communicate with representative in the United States. References.

25650.*—A commission merchant in Spain desires to secure an agency for the sale of mining machinery and apparatus and miner's lamps. Correspondence should be in Spanish. References.

25651.*—A firm in Australia would like to secure an agency for the sale of cotton, wool and cotton, and all wool underwear; silk, cotton, or artificial silk hosiery; and all kinds of piece goods. Quotations should be made f. o. b. New York or San Francisco. Payment will be made by sight draft or letter of credit in New York. Correspondence may be in English. References.

25652.*—A firm in India desires to purchase condensed milk. Quotations should be made f. o. b. port of shipment. Payment will be made against documents. Goods should be packed in cases containing 48 quarts or 96 pints. Correspondence may be in English. Reference.

25653.*—A firm in Portugal wishes to buy and secure an agency for the sale of dental supplies. Quotations should be made f. o. b. American port. Payment will be made by opening credit in New York. Correspondence may be in English. References.

OCT 24 1917

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No. 249 Washington, D. C., Wednesday, October 24 1917

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CANADIAN EXPORT EMBARGO ON SILVER SPRUCE.

A Canadian order in council of October 11, published in Customs Memorandum No. 2128B, prohibits the exportation (except under license) of silver spruce wood to all destinations abroad other than the United Kingdom, British possessions, and protectorates.

LARGE INCREASE IN JAPAN'S IMPORTS OF IRON AND STEEL.

[Commercial Attaché Frank R. Rutter, Tokyo.]

The importation of iron and steel into Japan made a new record in September, 1917. In that month \$13,000,000 worth of the principal kinds of iron and steel was imported at the 20 leading ports, while in August the imports of all iron and steel at all Japanese ports amounted to less than \$10,000,000 in value.

Iron and steel bars, plates, and sheets, have displaced for the first time cotton in the imports into Japan from the United States. Together these items represent just two-thirds of all American goods purchased by Japan. During the eight months January to August, 1917, the value of the imports of cotton into Japan from the United States was \$30,615,000, or 30 per cent of the total imports from the United States, while the value of the iron and steel bars, plates, and sheets amounted to \$36,876,000, or 36 per cent of the imports from the United States.

In quantity the disproportion was far greater. Iron and steel from the United States weighed over 300,000 long tons, four times as much as the cotton.

In the monthly statistics, bars, plates, and sheets are grouped in the statement by countries. The combined item covers bars, rods, T and angle iron, wire rods, plates and sheets, wire, bands, and hoops. The countries from which the imports were received are not yet reported for September.

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RUSSIA'S TOBACCO EXCISE AND THE TOBACCO MARKET.

[Orsen N. Nielsen, chief clerk, American consulate general, Moscow, Aug. 17.]

In Russia there is now effective a new schedule of excise duties on tobacco which, it is estimated, will increase the annual Government revenue from that source by 162,700,000 rubles; from 286,400,000 rubles expected to be paid into the Government under the excise duties formerly in effect, to 440,100,000 rubles under the new schedule. According to the new scale, the excise on different qualities of tobacco is increased from 28.9 per cent to 85 per cent.

For some time past the Russian Government has fixed prices at which the several grades of tobacco were to be sold in different parts of the country. Coincidentally with the new schedule of duties came the announcements that this fixed price had been raised and that the penalty for violations of the law on this point had been made more severe. The profits of tobacco factory owners are to be limited and the manufacture of cigarettes and tobacco of the cheapest quality is to be regulated.

Increases in Tobacco Excise and in Prices.

Since the beginning of the war, the tobacco excise has been increased three times. On August 17, 1914, a special tax based upon the weight of all tobaccos, except the very cheapest grade, became effective. This was replaced on December 24 of the same year by an increased tax upon the wrappers. An order of the Council of the Ministry increased this tax on June 5, 1916.

Each increase of the excise brought an increase in the prices of prepared tobacco, for labor, paper, boxes, and transportation had rapidly become more expensive. The 10-hour factory day was superseded by the 8-hour day after the revolution, and production costs again mounted. At the same time, the manufacturer could not ask for his product more than the price fixed by the Government. As a result, production decreased. The Ministry of Finance decided that it would be absolutely necessary to raise the fixed prices in order to stimulate production and normalize the sales. As it also became necessary to increase the resources of the Treasury, it was decided to increase the excise at the same time. Tobacco prices in Russia are approximately 300 per cent higher than they were a year ago, and in Moscow and Petrograd there is a scarcity of the cheaper grades.

Quality and Quantity of Tobacco on Hand—New Excise Taxes.

Complaints are frequent over the inferior quality of this year's tobacco. The crop was poor, owing to too much rain, followed by intense heat. The leaves blackened and "grew empty." In addition, there is no high-grade Turkish tobacco for blending. There is said to be a fair stock of raw tobacco on hand because the factories, expecting full production, contracted for their normal supply of the leaf. Following the introduction of the 8-hour day after the revolution, production decreased 20 and 25 per cent, leaving untouched in the warehouses stocks that under the old conditions would have been on the market months ago.

The new excise taxes on the higher grades of smoking tobacco are 10 rubles, 8 rubles, 6.3 rubles, and 4.5 rubles per pound. On the second quality the tax is 3.2 rubles per pound; on the two grades of

third-quality tobacco, 1.86 rubles and 1.24 rubles per pound, respectively. The fixed prices on smoking tobacco, except in Transcaucasia and Siberia, scale from 15 rubles to 3.44 rubles per pound. The prices of snuff and of the lower-quality cigars and cigarettes are not fixed. The excise on a pound of snuff is 3.20 rubles; on cigars, 40.15 rubles per 1,000, and on cigarettes, 16 rubles per 1,000.

[At the time of writing, the exchange value of the ruble was about 21 cents.]

ITALIAN PRODUCTION OF ANTIMONY.

[Vice Consul Quincy F. Roberts, Genoa, Sept. 7.]

Il Sole published at Milan August 21, 1917, contains an article on the Italian production of antimony. It states:

The exceedingly high prices of antimony which, after long oscillations, reached an average of 300 lire (\$57.90) the quintal (220.46 pounds) rendered possible the reopening of the two mines La Selva (Campagnatico) and Cetine di Cotorniano (Chiusdino) in Tuscany. Their production has been 137 tons of mineral at 34.45 per cent. In Cardinia the mines of Su Suergiu (Villasalto) and Corti Rosas (Ballao) continue to be productive and have furnished about 90 per cent of the output of the district of Iglesias, which has been 4,197 tons of mineral at 19.50 per cent. The total Italian production amounted in 1915 to 4,334 tons of mineral at 19.97 per cent, valued at 720,668 lire, while in 1914 it was 5,555 tons of mineral, valued at 57,325 lire.

Smelting Furnaces Start Work.

As a consequence of the reopening of the works at Cetine di Cotorniano and La Selva, the two smelting furnaces annexed to the mines themselves have started work again. The first began in December and turned out 600 kilos of regulized antimony. The second, put into activity in August, gave 65 tons. Seventy-five per cent of the mineral treated in this last smelting furnace came from the old stocks anterior to 1909, the year in which the working of the mine was abandoned and the furnace closed. The remaining 25 per cent came from the mine of Su Suergiu. The furnace annexed to this last-mentioned mine did not previously cease its activity, and in 1915 contributed to the total production 415 tons of regulized antimony and 67 of sulphur, surpassing thus the production of 1914, which was 135 tons of regulized antimony and 3 of sulphur.

RUBBER-TIRED VEHICLES AT HANKOW.

[Consul General Edwin S. Cunningham, Hankow, China.]

Within the foreign concessions of Hankow there are 2,357 licensed jinrikishas, 67 public carriages, and 83 private motor cars. Considering the very limited road mileage, the use of the motor car is increasing much more rapidly than was anticipated. One of the most encouraging features is that the wealthy Chinese are buying motor cars in larger numbers; therefore it would seem but natural that they would insist upon the extension of good roads into the Chinese rural districts which are now accessible only by footpaths suitable for such primitive vehicles as the wheelbarrow.

This note is not intended to create the impression that there is a large market in Hankow for automobiles, for such is not the case. The mileage of streets upon which motor cars can be operated does not exceed 20. The building of roads is a slow process, and in China it will require years to increase the mileage materially. The streets that are suitable for motor cars at present are almost entirely within the foreign concessions.

NETHERLANDS CENTRAL EXPORT BUREAU.

[British (Government) Board of Trade Journal, Sept. 27.]

According to the *Nieuwe Rotterdamsche Courant* of August 25 and 31 and a recent issue of the *Nederlandsche Landbouw-weekblad*, the Upper Chamber of the States-General has passed a Government measure for the establishment of a central export organization, which is to take the form of a limited-liability company, to be known as the Dutch Export Co. (*Nederlandsche Uitvoer Maatschappij*).

The act confers powers on the Government to regulate exports in accordance with the needs of the country, both for home and for foreign products, and to encourage imports in exchange for exports. Where goods whose export is allowable command higher prices abroad than at home, the permission to export such goods may be made expedient on conditions, such conditions to be as uniform as possible, and imported in accordance with general rules to be fixed by the Government.

These measures are to be carried out through the medium of the company referred to, the objects of which will be solely to provide for and mediate in export business and to promote trade in imports in exchange for exports. The decisions of the governing body of the company will be subject to Government approval. The company will be liquidated as soon as the Government is of opinion that its existence is unnecessary.

It is the intention of the Government that all export licenses will be granted through the agency of N. U. M. (*Nederlandsche Uitvoer Maatschappij*). The existing commissions and committees are to remain practically as at present. The trade associations, so far as they are engaged in export, will work through the N. U. M.; otherwise they will be practically unchanged. Their finance is to be placed under official control. In the opinion of the Netherlands Foreign Minister, no important change in foreign relations as regards imports will arise out of the fact that the Netherlands Oversea Trust ("N. O. T.") will now work in conjunction with the new company.

A certification of finance in regard to credit allowed abroad seems to the Government neither necessary nor desirable. The N. U. M. will facilitate export on credit, and that is all that is wanted. The conditions on which the N. U. M. will issue bonds are not yet determined. The interest they will bear will depend upon that carried by the foreign government paper on which the bonds are based. The bonds will issue only against exports.

The act contains a provision that the Netherlands Bank may be guaranteed by the Government up to 20,000,000 florins (\$8,040,000 at normal exchange) against loss arising from credit given in respect of foreign trade.

When the difficulties of foreign trade caused by the war come to an end a bill is to be introduced into Parliament to repeal the present act and to provide for the transition to normal conditions.

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CONDITIONS IN SOUTH AFRICA'S CHEMICAL TRADE.

[Consul William W. Masterson, Durban, Natal, Aug. 16.]

Manufacturers and wholesale drug and chemical merchants of the United States should study the South African import trade in their line, particularly in what might be called the heavy chemicals, so that when a revival comes they may be prepared to take advantage of it.

Only a small quantity of drugs and chemicals is manufactured in this country, practically all being imported principally from England. Drugs, chemicals, and apothecaries' supplies imported by the Durban district in 1916 were:

Articles.	Quantity.	Value.	Articles.	Quantity.	Value.
Acid:			Cyanide of sodium.....pounds	4,034,144	\$849,224
Acetic.....gallons	326	\$1,280	Disinfectants and germicides.....		167,072
Nitric.....pounds	7,632	1,664	Medicinal preparations.....		239,806
Sulphuric.....do	9,606	1,246	Opium.....pounds	289	1,874
Apothecaries' supplies.....		254,815	Potash compounds, n. e. s.		
Borax.....pounds	104,080	10,448	.....pounds	417,313	82,103
Bromine litharge and manganese dioxide.....pounds	414,809	40,212	Soda, caustic.....do	4,184,395	200,880
Calcium carbide.....do	3,932,384	116,134	All other drugs, etc.....		431,492
Cyanide of potassium.....do	109	73	Total		2,398,293

Total Imports for the Union.

The value of the imports of drugs, chemicals, and apothecaries' supplies by the Union of South Africa during the year ended December 31, 1916, amounted to \$5,664,980. The various items were:

Articles.	Value.	Articles.	Value.	Articles.	Value.
Acids:		Carbonate of soda (soda ash).....	\$24,877	Nitrate of ammonia.....	\$42,922
Acetic acid.....	\$5,085	Carbonic-acid gas.....	5,645	Opium.....	6,817
Nitric acid.....	2,966	Caustic soda.....	346,475	Oxygen.....	1,528
Sulphuric acid.....	3,489	Chloride of lime.....	39,624	Pills.....	462
Tannic acid.....	3,708	Cyanide of sodium.....	2,167,290	Potash compounds.....	117,195
Ammonia for ice making.....	31,437	Cyanide of potassium.....	1,343	Soda compounds.....	78,934
Apothecaries' supplies.....	620,215	Disinfectants and germicides.....	393,948	Tinctures.....	3,947
Borax.....	120,552	Magnesium sulphate.....	29,130	All other drugs and chemicals.....	648,500
Bromine, litharge, and manganese dioxide.....	65,050	Medicinal preparations: Spirituous.....	127,108		
Calcium carbide.....	257,364	Nonspirituous.....	520,720		
Carbonate of ammonia.....	7,592				

[A list of importers of drugs and chemicals in Durban may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 93648.]

STANDARDS OF PUBLIC-UTILITY SERVICE.

The United States Bureau of Standards has issued an outline of work which has been done in a study of the standards of good practice and good service as applied to public utilities. The Bureau has been engaged for several years on this subject, and the résumé that is here offered is accompanied by lists of the publications that have been issued by the Bureau on the various divisions of the work. The branches of the main subject include standards for electric service, standards for gas service, standard methods for gas testing, National electrical safety code, electrolysis mitigation and other activities. Copies of this outline, Circular of the Bureau of Standards No. 68, "Public-Utility Service Standards of Quality and Safety," may be obtained at 5 cents each from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C.

PROPOSED REVISION OF CHINESE TARIFF.

Commercial Attaché Julean Arnold has reported from Peking that an agreement among the ministers of the allied powers, with the assent of the ministers of the United States and the neutral powers, will permit China to revise her customs tariff to make it an effective 5 per cent. At present the duty of 5 per cent is charged on the basis of valuations which were fixed 15 years ago, in 1902; and as prices have greatly increased since then, the present level of duties is in many cases considerably below 5 per cent ad valorem. Customs valuations must therefore be increased to correspond with increased prices.

An international commission comprising the representatives of treaty power countries (not including the central powers) will probably be called to sit with Chinese representatives in the near future to draw up the new customs treaty.

A clipping from the Peking Daily News giving particulars as to the present customs revenue and the amount of increase to be expected as a result of the proposed change in valuations, was forwarded by the attaché and will be loaned to those interested upon application to the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

RATE OF EXCHANGE IN HONDURAS.

[Consul Francis J. Dyer, Tegucigalpa, Oct. 1.]

The advancing price of silver in the United States and throughout the world generally has affected the exchange market in Honduras. Two years ago one dollar in gold was worth three in silver. Last month the rate here reached two for one, and the rate at present is \$1.95 for gold drafts on the United States, and the banks pay \$1.90 for them in silver. The effect is to unsettle business conditions, owing to the uncertainty as to the price of silver, and merchants are disposed to delay meeting obligations with the hope that their silver will enhance in value and go further than at present in liquidating their liabilities. The effect also is to enhance the price of commodities, inasmuch as payment is generally made in silver, the value of which is enhancing while prices remain stationary or advance in consequence of the general enhancement of prices in the markets of the United States.

HAWAIIAN SUGAR CROP AND SHIPMENTS.

[A. P. Taylor, correspondent, Honolulu.]

The Hawaiian sugar plantation fiscal year ends September 30, and estimates of sugar shipped to include the harvest of "1917" as of September 30, gives a total of 594,314 tons, of 2,000 pounds per ton.

The 1917 crop estimate as of June 30, 1917, was 637,182 tons, but up to September 30 the plantations were more than 41,000 tons behind the estimates. This was partly due to drought this year, many plantations depending largely upon rainfall for their irrigation, or upon fluming water from mountains. The plantations that had derrick wells and pumps got along very well.

Forty-four of the plantations in the islands have mills. In addition there are seven independent cane planters whose cane is ground on shares, who do business on such a large scale that their share of sugar is listed separately.

WOODWORKING MACHINERY IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES.**UNITED KINGDOM.**

[Consul E. Haldeman Dennison, Birmingham, England, Aug. 16.]

In normal times less than 10 per cent of the timber and lumber of all kinds that are consumed in the United Kingdom is of British growth. The wood of British origin that comes on the market is not grown in forests or in carefully cultivated spaces, but comes from farms and large estates and is cut as various contingencies make it desirable. There are no companies owning lands for logging purposes. Some of this wood is often unsatisfactory because of the lack of scientific forestry. That question is now receiving considerable attention, but for some time to come the growth of wood for commercial purposes can not be considered as altogether practical and the country must depend upon outside sources for its lumber supply. The new growth of British timber for years past has not been equal to the amount that is cut.

Pine From Canada and United States.

Timber grown in the United Kingdom consists of oak, ash, and beech of the harder kinds, and soft elm. Pine and fir, as well as spruce, are grown in large quantities in Scotland. Considerable birch is grown throughout the country. Imports include mahogany from Africa and Mexico, teak from India, and pine from Russia, Norway, and Sweden. Canada and the United States supply great quantities of pine. A substantial amount of timber is sawn in the Midlands of England, although the larger mills are found at the various ports, such as London, Liverpool, Hull, etc., from 75 to 80 per cent of the timber sawn in this district being imported.

In former years a good deal of American woodworking machinery was used in the Birmingham district, but British manufacturers of this class of machinery have made such progress of late that they have obtained most of the trade, and the machinery now used is generally of British manufacture. They have copied American designs whenever this has been possible and in some instances have purchased the patents. The new patents and designs act has increased the tendency to purchase these patents or obtain the rights to work them on a royalty basis.

Foreign Competition is Difficult.

There is no prejudice against the use of American woodworking machinery, but British manufacturers are on the ground and have reached the point where they largely control the market. The British companies, with their large capital and efficient organization, render foreign competition most difficult, and the market for American woodworking machinery can not therefore be considered especially favorable. It would be most difficult to obtain a footing in it unless it could be satisfactorily shown that the product was no higher in price and was superior in some other particular to the domestic machinery. Another factor, and a very important one to be considered, is the tendency since the outbreak of the war to purchase as far as possible machinery and other products of domestic origin.

The only criticism of American woodworking machinery that has been heard is that it is too light, machinery adaptable for American

wood not always being suitable for British wood, such as the oak, elm, ash, beech, and birch.

Methods of Sale—Terms of Payment.

Machinery of this description is usually sold through agents, or the large manufacturers may send out their own men to solicit orders. The commission is usually 10 per cent, with allowances for introduction, advertising, etc. Terms of sale are generally 60 days from date of bill of lading, with 2½ per cent cash discount added, or drawn against three months' bill for delivery at the net price; but the former terms are preferred.

There is no duty on woodworking machinery, the only difficulty being in connection with the British patent and designs act, which tends to cause manufacturers to make their machines in the country.

Any steamship line running to an English port would be a suitable route by which to ship. If there is any preference it would be for lines running to London or Liverpool, both of which are near this district.

The Birmingham district, on account of its position as a most important industrial center, has many industries which use turners, automatic trimmers, planers, and all types of woodworking machinery. Among others using such machinery in the district may be mentioned automobile and vehicle manufacturers; car construction and repair shops; and frame, molding, and furniture manufacturers.

[A list of importers of woodworking machinery in the Birmingham district may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 92627.]

[Consul Augustus E. Ingram, Bradford, England, Aug. 1.]

Chief Sources of Lumber Supply.

The lumber used in the Bradford district is practically all imported. It consists chiefly of pine and spruce deals, for manufacturing cases and containers in connection with Bradford's large export trade in textiles; walnut, oak, mahogany, and similar hardwoods, for furniture and cabinet making; and a variety of miscellaneous woods imported by timber merchants for building and construction. The chief sources of supply are Scandinavian countries, the United States, and Canada.

A large amount of woodworking machinery which is used here is made in Halifax, Hebden Bridge, Oldham, Rochdale, and London. A few American machines are operated. There is no prejudice against American machinery, but the controlling factors are quality and delivered price. The users of such machinery rarely buy more than one or two machines at a time, and usually do not wish to undertake the importation of small orders when their needs can be supplied locally and the machines inspected prior to purchase. The establishment of a central agency with representatives in the principal English industrial centers is believed to be a good method of extending sales in the British Isles.

Method of Shipment to Bradford.

There is no duty on advertising matter. The Bradford market is best reached through the ports of Liverpool and Manchester, and c. i. f. quotations from New York, Philadelphia, and Boston to those English ports are usually desired by Bradford merchants.

The Bradford Corporation, which operates its own street railway system, also builds all its cars, and American manufacturers might communicate with the Bradford Corporation Tramways Department, Thornbury Works, Bradford, England.

Keen competition may be expected from English makers of woodworking machinery. The shortage of timber, high freight rates, and restrictions on building and construction work are handicaps at present, but the establishment of satisfactory relations now would no doubt prove of much service when more normal conditions return.

[A list of users of woodworking machinery in the Bradford district may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 91723.]

[Vice Consul Harry A. McBride, London, England, Aug. 27.]

Sales Hampered at Present by Restrictions.

The sale of woodworking machinery in the United Kingdom at present is considerably hampered by the restrictions, not only upon imports of machinery of various kinds, but also upon imports of hardwood lumber, except under license. The timber requirements of this sort before the war were met mainly by wood imported from foreign countries, chiefly America and Scandinavia. Native-grown wood was used only to a limited extent.

The principal kinds used in the United Kingdom are oak, teak, and similar hardwoods, and these are employed for practically the same purposes here as in the United States. Furniture woods of the finer qualities were also used to a considerable extent before the war, but these are now on the list of prohibited imports.

The woodworking machinery used in this district has been principally of British and American manufacture, although there was also a considerable sale of German and Austrian machines. The possibilities of establishing an important market for American products of this sort at the close of hostilities are very great.

Big Demand Expected After War.

Since the outbreak of the war building operations of practically every sort, except for Government uses, have been prohibited, and the building trades expect immediately after the war that there will be an unprecedented demand for construction work. Many structures which were being erected during 1914 were left unfinished, and these, of course, will have first attention as soon as circumstances warrant their completion.

There are many firms dealing in machinery in this district and several agents make a specialty of woodworking machines. Normally the principal users of woodworking machinery in this district are automobile, vehicle, and boat manufacturers, car-construction and repair shops, furniture makers, planing mills, and manufacturers of sash, doors, and blinds.

[A list of users of woodworking machinery in the London district may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 92939.]

[Consul Rufus Fleming, Edinburgh, Scotland, July 31.]

Normal Sources of Timber Supplies.

Coniferous timber constitutes from 80 to 90 per cent of the wood that is consumed in the Edinburgh district. The principal trees that

grow in Scotland are larch, ash, pine, spruce, and oak. In normal times timber supplies are largely imported from Russia, Sweden, Canada, the United States, Norway, France, and Germany, which are named in the order of their importance. Coniferous woods come principally from Russia, Norway, and Sweden; in comparatively smaller quantities from the United States and Canada, which with Central America supply much of the hardwood. The kinds of timber and lumber imported are mainly white pine, spruce, pitch pine, yellow pine, oak, elm, birch, and mahogany. Since the beginning of the war imports of timber have been greatly reduced, and the forests of Scotland and England have been drawn upon heavily.

The approximate number of woodworking concerns that use machinery in this district is 120, and 60 of these firms are in Edinburgh and Leith. The power employed in the most important establishments is steam, the smaller factories using gas or electricity. Firms which have restricted floor space or require very little power use gas engines or electric motors. Several country cabinetmakers have water power sufficient for their purposes, but a great majority of concerns in country towns, like those in the cities, use steam or gas.

Two Classes of Woodworking Firms.

The 120 woodworking firms may be divided into two classes—55 of A and 65 of B. The Edinburgh and Leith concerns may be divided into 35 of A and 25 of B. Firms of class A are equipped somewhat as follows: Two circular saws, one band saw, one crosscut saw, one planing machine, one molding machine, two spindle molding machines, one mortising machine, one tenoning machine, one turning lathe, and one sandpapering machine. Firms of class B have one circular saw, one band saw, one spindle molding machine, one lathe, and a small surface planing machine. Some American lathes and also a number of American planing machines are in use. With these exceptions the power machines are of British manufacture. American small tools of many kinds, including chisels, gouges, saws, and planes are found in every important shop.

There are no Edinburgh dealers in heavy machinery who carry stocks. Sales are made directly by the manufacturers or general agents, who go to the mill owners. The best method for American manufacturers of such machines and other appliances to adopt would be to open an agency in England or Scotland to deal directly with the mill owners. Local general-machinery houses are in a position to take up the trade, but they have never found it profitable to handle heavy machines or appliances in direct competition with manufacturers.

[A list of possible importers and users of woodworking machinery in the Edinburgh district may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 91725.]

FRANCE.

[Consul General A. Gaulin, Marseille, Aug. 14.]

The lumber used in the Marseille district for box making, telegraph poles, railway ties, and mine props is grown principally in this vicinity, but the wood for building and cabinetmaking purposes is largely of foreign origin. Staves for wine barrels are

almost entirely imported. In 1913, which was the last normal year, the imports of lumber at Marseille, as shown by the annual report of the Marseille Chamber of Commerce, in metric tons of 2,204.6 pounds, were: Building wood—oak, 7,752; chestnut, 4,301; all other, 71,667; staves—oak, 15,024; all other, 746; wood for cabinetmaking—boxwood, 1,689; mahogany, 2,904; all other, 6,237; total, 110,320.

Pine Lumber Most Important.

Pine lumber was by far the most important product. The United States furnished that year 2,441 tons of oak, 3,047 tons of red gum and sap gum, 8,156 tons of pitch pine, 4,648 tons of oak staves, and 119 tons of cabinet wood.

The Var Department and Corsica are the principal timber-producing sections in this district. The kinds of timber most plentiful in the Var are the cork tree, the maritime pine, the evergreen oak, the white oak, and the Aleppo pine, in the order named. In Corsica the forests occupy mainly the highlands and the sand dunes. In the mountain region the principal species are the Corsican pine, the gall-bearing oak, the beech, and the birch, while near the coast the predominating trees are the maritime pine, the cork tree, and the evergreen oak. The chestnut is the most important tree in the intermediate zone. Resinous timber of large size is the chief product of the Corsican forests. The annual lumber production of the Var Department has averaged in recent normal years about 73,000 cubic yards, and that of Corsica about 55,000 cubic yards.

Great Majority of French Make.

The great majority of the woodworking machines used here are of French make. The leading manufacturers are Guillet et Fils, of Auxerre (Yonne), and Panhard & Levassor, of Paris. There is a small number of American machines in use, in addition to some of English and German origin.

It is believed that a systematic campaign would yield good results for American manufacturers. This would require, at the start, the sending of a competent American representative and the establishment of a central sales agency, preferably in Paris, covering the entire country. Subagents could afterwards be appointed in the principal industrial centers. It would also be necessary, in order that advertising literature might receive proper attention, to have it printed in the French language, giving measurements and weights in metric units.

There are no important houses in this district which import woodworking machinery. The names of a few large dealers in French machinery and of other persons who might prove suitable as agents are forwarded.

[The lists of firms mentioned may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 92838.]

[Consul William H. Hunt, St. Etienne, Aug. 22.]

Much French Machinery Used.

The St. Etienne demand for woodworking machinery is not active, and American machines do not occupy a very prominent place in saw-

mills or planing mills. The greater part of the machinery used in this district is of French manufacture, but there are also some German machines and German imitations of American designs, and certain kinds of American machinery are found in nearly all the establishments. The elimination for some time of German goods of this class will doubtless open up a market here for the American product at the close of the present war. The lumber used here is grown in France, and embodies ash, birch, maple, oak, platane, pine, poplar, spruce, sycamore, and walnut.

Various Tariff Provisions.

Woodworking machinery is classified under No. 525 of the French import tariff and pays an import duty according to weight as follows: More than 25,000 kilos (55,115 pounds), 10 francs per 100 kilos, net weight (\$0.88 per 100 pounds); from 11,023 to 55,115 pounds, 12 francs per 100 kilos, net weight (\$1.05 per 100 pounds); from 2,204 to 11,023 pounds, 16 francs per 100 kilos, net weight (\$1.40 per 100 pounds); from 512 to 2,204 pounds, 24 francs per 100 kilos, net weight (\$2.10 per 100 pounds); 512 pounds or less, 50 francs per 100 kilos, net weight (\$1.38 per 100 pounds). These rates of duty are applicable to woodworking machinery which originates in the United States or Porto Rico.

Advertising matter is classified under No. 469 of the French import tariff and pays an import duty (if in one color, other than metal color, applied by hand or otherwise, on paper or cardboard), if the weight per square meter is 350 grams or less, not glazed, of 120 francs per 100 kilos, net weight (\$10.51 per 100 pounds); glazed, 180 francs per 100 kilos, net weight (\$15.76 per 100 pounds); 351 to 700 grams, not glazed, 75 francs per 100 kilos, net weight (\$6.57 per 100 pounds); glazed, 105 francs per 100 kilos, net weight (\$9.19 per 100 pounds); more than 700 grams, not glazed, 30 francs per 100 kilos, net weight (\$2.63 per 100 pounds); glazed, 38 francs per 100 kilos, net weight (\$3.33 per 100 pounds). If in two or more colors, or in a metal color, the rate varies from \$29.54 to \$7.88 per 100 pounds.

Method of Shipment—Price Quotations.

American machinery of this class usually is purchased of our manufacturers through Paris agents, who as a rule import these goods through Havre or Marseille, but since the outbreak of the war the bulk of American merchandise reaching France has been imported by Bordeaux, Marseille, or Saint Nazaire. It is preferable to quote prices c. i. f. one of these ports, or to make a quotation f. o. b. port of shipment with a statement of freight and insurance rates prevailing at the time of the quotation.

In order to obtain a footing in this market it will be necessary for a firm either to open its own branch in France or grant an exclusive agency to some established firm. American machinery manufacturers now doing business in this country have successfully pursued both methods.

A branch or agency should be located at Paris, Lyon, or Marseille. Saint Etienne is not sufficiently a center to serve as the seat of a general agency. A list of firms and individuals who might act as agents, and of users of woodworking machinery in this consular district is forwarded.

There is not a wide knowledge of English in provincial business circles in France, and it is preferable that correspondence should be in French.

[The list of firms mentioned in this report may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 92982b.]

SPAIN.

[Consul General Carl Bailey Hurst, Barcelona, July 22.]

Machinery for sawing and woodworking is manufactured in the Barcelona district by Cortes y Ventosa Miró, Consejo de Ciento, 463, Barcelona; Menna Claramunt, Fray Luis de León, 93, Sabadell; and Duch y Argemi, San Olegario, 101, Sabadell.

Woodworking machinery is not separately given in the list of Spanish imports, but comes under paragraph 571 of the customs tariff, which reads: "Machine tools for working metals, wood, or stone, weighing up to 1,102 pounds." Goods dutiable under this paragraph pay a duty of \$2.05 per 100 pounds. Paragraph 572 refers to the same classes of machinery weighing more than 1,102 pounds, and they are dutiable at \$1.63 per 100 pounds. The duty for woodworking machinery is on the gross weight. There is no duty on printed matter in the form of circulars or catalogues passing through the mails.

Imports into Spain under paragraph 571 in 1915, the latest year for which countries of origin are available, in metric tons of 2,204.6 pounds, were: From Great Britain, 63; France, 60; United States, 26; Germany, 17; Italy, 6; Sweden, 4; Switzerland, 3; Norway, 3; Holland, 1; total, 183. Imports during the same year under paragraph 572 were: From United States, 616 tons; Great Britain, 439; France, 186; Germany, 107; Switzerland, 49; Italy, 30; Sweden, 11; Holland, 3; Norway, 2; total, 1,443.

Preference for American Machinery.

Imports into Spain from Germany have ceased altogether, but those appearing in the statistics refer to merchandise which was shipped before Italy entered the war.

A decided preference for American machinery exists in Spain, and this has been earned by excellent qualities. The possible market for American woodworking machinery here is well worth cultivating.

The native timbers of the mountainous regions of this district, according to statistics of 1912, number about 1,700 spruce-fir trees in the Province of Lerida, and 5,700,000 larch and pine trees in the Provinces of Soria and Teruel.

The kinds of unmanufactured wood imported into Spain during 1916, in metric tons of 2,204.6 pounds, were: Staves, 50,146; railway sleepers, 1,460; posts and round stakes of common wood, 23,051; common wood in planks, 291; fine wood in logs, pieces, boards, planks, and sheets, 5,305; hoops, staples, trellis, and fencing, 95.

Conditions Affecting Trade Extension.

Advertising and correspondence should be in Spanish.

It would be well at the start to offer prospective customers in Spain the easiest terms of sale practicable, which ought to compare favorably with those granted under normal conditions by European manufacturers, who in the past have often given credits of 60 to 90

days, or cash 30 days after receipt of merchandise. It is true, now when competition has lessened, that exporters can be less lenient in their terms, but with a view to future business this is hardly expedient.

[Lists of importers and dealers in machinery for industrial uses at Barcelona, and of persons who have inquired recently at the American consulate general in that city about representation for machinery from manufacturers in the United States may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 92346.]

MUSEUM OF VALPARAISO DESIRES ADDITIONAL EXHIBITS.

[Consul General L. J. Keena, Valparaiso, Chile.]

Desiring to have its work brought to the attention of North American firms and organizations likely to be interested, the Museum of Valparaiso has sent to this consulate general the following statement of its aims and activities with the request that publicity be given thereto:

MUSEUM OF VALPARAISO.

Provisionally the Museum of Valparaiso is located in Calle Errazuriz No. 70, Playa Ancha, but meantime there are being constructed on ground granted by the municipality of Valparaiso, in the beautiful park of Playa Ancha, buildings which the steady development of the various activities of the institution requires.

The Museum is a State institution, embracing in its general scope and purpose the following departments: A museum of natural history, military, naval, and social; zoological and botanical gardens in process of formation, with subdivisions for experimental purposes, oceanography, etc.; a public circulating library; an international bureau of information and propaganda; and a permanent exposition of commerce and industries, domestic and foreign, in a formative state, with a section for commercial and industrial technology now developing.

For the purposes of research work, diffusion of knowledge, and general reference the Museum is officially connected with the national capital in the various offices and organizations, and with those in the Provinces, which in any way carry on a distinct work in some phase of the national life. In the first place, there are found among these various offices and organizations the Central Office of Statistics; the Department of General Inspection of Forestry, Fishery, and Game; National Mining Society; Society for the Promotion of Manufacturing; the Department of Inspection of Geography and Mines; Administration of Agricultural Services; the General Administration of the National Library; and the Institute of Medicine and Hygiene.

Kind of Exhibits Sought—Bulletin to be Issued.

The Museum of Valparaiso, through its favorable situation in the commercial metropolis of the Republic, its immediate access by sea to foreign lands, and through the practical and cultural aims which it pursues, is destined in its greatest amplitude to render signal services to the cause of drawing nearer and promoting economic and intellectual relations, both at home and abroad.

With such ends in view the Museum is greatly interested in receiving every kind of literature, graphical and statistical, of propaganda and research, documentary publications, literary, industrial, commercial, etc., which will serve to supply the various sections or buildings, on the basis of nationality, with complete reference material and other things which the continuous and progressive internationalization requires and which the characteristics of a given people reveal.

Industrial samples, machinery, products, etc., enjoy the privilege of free customs entry, provided they are clearly and distinctly marked as intended for the permanent exposition of the Museum of Valparaiso.

On request the Museum will, to the best of its ability, enter into an exchange of every kind of scientific publication and of copies of reports or works zoological, botanical, mineralogical, ethnographical, historical, etc.

As soon as certain details of internal administration are adjusted there will be published a bulletin, the official organ of the Museum of Valparaiso, which among other points of information will give an orderly statement of the exhibits received.

TO EXTEND UTILIZATION OF FUR-SEAL PRODUCTS.

The canning of seal meat and its preservation as a corned product are now receiving the attention of the United States Bureau of Fisheries as a means of increasing the food supply of the Nation. It is also proposed to employ the bones of the seals as extensively as possible for fertilizing purposes, to obtain valuable oil for dressing skins from the surplus blubber, make leather from the throats or gullets, and possibly to use the intestines for casings, and various glands for medicinal or food extracts.

As a preliminary to utilizing the meat for food, arrangements have been made to provide for the seal islands a small experimental canning outfit, consisting of a steam-pressure cooker and appurtenances. It is planned to can a quantity of seal meat under varying conditions, with a view to ascertaining whether economic use can be made of this product in canned form. If it develops that seal meat can be prepared successfully in this way, steps will be taken to establish the undertaking on an extensive scale as soon as possible.

One of Staple Articles of Food for Natives.

Seal meat, fresh, salted, and smoked, has been one of the staple food articles of the natives of the Pribilof Islands and has been regarded with favor by whites. The seal shoulders are particularly palatable, and it is said that they can be prepared by any good cook so as to resemble swan breast both in flavor and appearance. This meat is served regularly at the mess of the Government employees on St. Paul and St. George Islands.

In addition to the canning project, the preservation of the meat by corning will be taken up, and the remainder, in excess of the requirements for food of the local inhabitants and the fox herds, will be converted into oil and fertilizer at plants which it is proposed to have established on the islands.

Prior to 1912, when the five-year close season, limiting killings to the food requirements of the natives, when into effect, no economic use was made of the surplus meat aside from the comparatively small amount required for fox food. The early resumption of commercial sealing operations, which will yield a large number of carcasses each year, will afford an opportunity to contribute materially to the food supply.

These activities are in accord with the policy of the department renewed recently with particular emphasis, that no waste of any character whatsoever shall be permitted.

OFFICES OF THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE.

DISTRICT OFFICES.

NEW YORK: 734 Customhouse.
BOSTON: 1801 Customhouse.
CHICAGO: 504 Federal Building.
ST. LOUIS: 402 Third National Bank Building.
NEW ORLEANS: 1020 Hibernia Bank Building.
SAN FRANCISCO: 807 Customhouse.
SEATTLE: 848 Henry Building.

COOPERATIVE OFFICES.

CLEVELAND: Chamber of Commerce.
CINCINNATI: Chamber of Commerce.
CINCINNATI: General Freight Agent, Southern Railway, 96 Ingalls Building.
LOS ANGELES: Chamber of Commerce.
PHILADELPHIA: Chamber of Commerce.
CHATTANOOGA: South American Agent, Southern Railway System.
PORTLAND, OREG.: Chamber of Commerce.
DAYTON: Greater Dayton Association.

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the Bureau and its district and cooperative offices. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and state opportunity number. The Bureau does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases. Symbols: " Reported by American consular officers; † Reported by commercial attachés and commercial agents; ‡ Direct inquiries received by the Bureau.

In considering the following "opportunities" special regard should be had to the laws and regulations governing export licenses and trading with the enemy.

Advertising novelties.....	25655	Lathes.....	25659
Antimony.....	25659	Leather.....	25658
Automobiles.....	25659, 25660	Machinery.....	25659
Curry combs.....	25656	Metals.....	25654
Drugs and chemicals.....	25659	Office appliances.....	25655
Eyelets and rings.....	25657	Paints and colors.....	25659
Filtering cloths.....	25661	Piece goods.....	25659
Flour.....	25663	Scoops.....	25662
Furniture and building materials.....	25659	Shaftings.....	25659
Glass and earthenware.....	25654	Stationery.....	25659
Hardware.....	25654, 25659	Tires.....	25654
Hosiery.....	25654	Tools.....	25654, 25659
Iron and steel products.....	25654, 25659	Tubes and fittings.....	25654
Laces and ribbons.....	25659	Typewriters.....	25659
Enamelware.....	25659	Umbrellas and accessories.....	25659
Lampware.....	25659	Wire and wire goods.....	25654, 25659

25654.†—A merchant in India desires to be placed in communication with American manufacturers and exporters of hardware, such as bolts, nuts, rivets, pulleys, hinges, nails, screws, etc.; small tools, such as reamers, wrenches, drills, milling cutters, vises, saws, hammers, etc.; brass, copper, and steel flexible tubing; iron and steel products; iron piping; pipe fittings of all kinds; metals, such as lead, steel, brass, copper, etc.; all kinds of wire; rubber goods, such as tires, etc.; hosiery; glassware; earthenware; etc. References.

25655.†—A man in Argentina desires to represent American manufacturers and exporters of office appliances and advertising novelties. Cash will be paid. Quotations should be made f. o. b. New York. References.

25656.*—A company in Canada desires to purchase curry combs. Quotations may be made f. o. b. Cash will be paid. Correspondence may be in English.

25657.*—A firm in England wishes to buy brass sail eyelets and rings, and brassed, japanned, and celluloid boot and shoe eyelets. Cash will be paid in the United States. References.

25658.*—An agency is desired by a company in Argentina for the sale of shoe leather. All business is desired on commission. Correspondence may be in English. References.

25659.†—A commission merchant in India wishes to be placed in communication with American manufacturers and exporters of iron and steel products, galvanized sheets, hardware, such as shovel handles, files, saws, augers, furniture and building materials, etc., all kinds of wire and wire goods, nails, tubes and fittings, lead sheets and pipes, hammers, hinges, all kinds of mining tools, lathes, shaftings, locks, metal sheets, antimony, electric and gas lampware, glass and enamelware, stationery, piece goods, paints and colors, automobiles, machinery, chemicals and drugs, typewriters, oils, umbrellas and accessories, laces and ribbons, and other lines. References.

25660.*—A firm in Portugal desires to purchase and secure an agency for the sale of motor cars. Quotations should be made f. o. b. American port. Credit will be opened in New York for payment. Correspondence may be in English. References.

25661.*—An industrial engineer in France wishes to secure an agency for the sale of filtering cloths for oil mills and refineries. Correspondence may be in English. Reference.

25662.*—A man in Canada desires to purchase wooden scoops for grocers. Quotations may be made f. o. b. Cash will be paid. Correspondence may be in English.

25663.*—A firm in Portugal is in the market for flour. Quotations should be made f. o. b. New York. Credit will be opened in New York for payments. Correspondence should be in French. Reference.

OCT 24 1917
PRINCETON N. J.

COMMERCE REPORTS

DAILY CONSULAR AND TRADE REPORTS
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BRITISH TRADING RESTRICTIONS IN POTASSIUM COMPOUNDS.

[Cablegram from American Consulate General, London, Oct. 22.]

Minister of Munitions gives notice forbidding purchase or delivery, except under license, of potassium compounds, including caustic chloride or muriate carbonate and sulphate of potash in pure commercial form, and any material other than blast furnace dust of which more than 10 per cent consists of any one or more of foregoing. Applications for licenses should be addressed to Controller of Potash Production, Ministry of Munitions.

LICENSES FOR EXPORTATION OF TIN PLATE.

In response to inquiries concerning applications for license to export tin plate, the War Trade Board, upon recommendation of its Bureau of Imports and of the Committee on the Conservation of Tin Plate, makes the following announcement:

(1) That no licenses will be granted for the exportation of tin plate for use for any other purpose than as food containers, except on satisfactory evidence that the plate will be used in such a way as to contribute to the military needs of the nations at war with Germany and her allies.

(2) That, as to applications for license to export tin plate to be used as food containers, preference will be given to those cases in which satisfactory evidence is presented that the food to be packed will be for the use of the nations at war with Germany and her allies.

Market for Indian Thymol Desired.

A firm in India desiring to market thymol in the United States, reference to which was made in COMMERCE REPORTS for August 6, 1917, has transmitted a sample of the thymol, which may be examined at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district offices by referring to file No. 91018.

TREBIZOND FILBERT CROP FOR 1917.

[Consul W. L. Jenkins, Trebizond, Turkey, Aug. 25.]

In a district occupied by two belligerent forces it is impossible to obtain official or even reliable semiofficial crop statistics. The two principal dealers in filberts, however, have informed this office that they estimate this season's crop for the coast district from Eloe to Hopa (the former to the west and the latter to the east of Trebizond, a distance of approximately 120 miles) to be about 18,500,000 pounds.

Last season's estimate for the immediate vicinity of Trebizond proper was 4,340,000 pounds, as against 17,551,000 pounds in 1913, and 31,000,000 pounds in 1914, an abnormal year. How much of this year's crop can be regularly gathered is very uncertain. The dealers are discouraged and their trade has already been seriously affected. They are also handicapped by the fact that the local executive committee has fixed the selling price at 8 rubles a pood, which at the normal rate of exchange equals \$11.41 per 100 pounds; whereas the market price obtained in a near-by town where the sale is unrestricted is about 24 rubles a pood, or \$34.22 per 100 pounds. The normal price before the war was \$5.66 per 100 pounds.

Yield in Previous Years.

In 1910-11 the crop of filberts was smaller than in 1909-10, showing a difference of 24,000,000 pounds. The total exports for the season were 107,113,300 pounds, to which 5 per cent for local consumption should be added to show the total amount produced. Of these exports 48 per cent went to Germany, 22 per cent to Austria, 10 per cent to France, 10 per cent to Egypt, 4 per cent to America, 3 per cent to England, and 3 per cent to other countries. The crop of the 1911-12 season proved to be much smaller, the total being only 58,591,400 pounds. Prices were consequently much higher; they reached \$6.11 per 100 pounds, as compared with \$4.02 in 1910-11.

PIPE LINES FOR BRINGING OIL FROM ROUMANIA.

A writer in the *Rheinisch-Westfälische Zeitung* of September 18, 1917, complains that Germany does not seem to be any better off for having captured the Roumanian oil fields, so far as the supply of oil for domestic use is concerned. The shortage of petroleum is as serious as ever.

It has been estimated that there are about 700,000 tons of petroleum and its various distilled products in Roumania at present. The cost of transportation in privately owned tank cars would be about 147,000,000 marks (35,000,000 marks would be for freight and the remainder for rent of oil cars). Cars that before the war could be rented for a whole year for 300 to 400 marks now cost from 1,600 to 2,400 marks for a single round trip to Roumania.

It may be estimated that a pipe-line (8-inch) from Ploesti, via Predeal, Kisuyszallass, and Kiskernye, to Oderberg (a distance of 1,200 kilometers) would cost about 15,000,000 marks. Of course, it is impossible to estimate the cost of the pump stations, of which there would have to be a great number. It may be estimated, however, that the cost of transportation would be about 50 marks per 10 tons instead of 2,100 marks, the present approximate cost.

CONCESSIONS FOR IMPORTS INTO UNITED KINGDOM AND FRANCE.

The French and British agreement regarding the issue of licenses for the importation into each country of certain products of the other country was described briefly by the American Consul General at London in a cablegram published in **COMMERCE REPORTS** for September 7. In view of the present extensive import prohibitions maintained by the United Kingdom and France, the facilities provided by the agreement furnish a distinct advantage to the manufacturers of each country over those of other nationalities.

The license arrangement does not extend to all classes of goods. While the English Bureau in Paris may grant licenses for the admission into the United Kingdom of most articles, and the French Bureau in London has corresponding powers, a list of excepted articles was reserved by each country.

Special arrangements regarding these excepted goods are set forth in a recent report from the American Ambassador at Paris. Even in regard to these goods reciprocal preference is given in some cases to imports from the two countries over those from other sources. The classes of goods provided for in the most recent regulations are the following: Imports into France—Animal and vegetable oils and fats; stearic and oleic acids; soaps; candles; jute tissues; tissues and hosiery (knit goods) of cotton and wool. Imports into the United Kingdom—Wood; stones, slate, and marble; automobiles and motorcycles, their parts and accessories; paper and pulp and paper manufactures; agricultural and wood-working machines; gold and plated articles; hops; cotton hosiery (knit goods), with certain exceptions; spirits; ornamental feathers.

Inquiries in regard to the terms of the present regulations will be answered by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

BANK OF VENEZUELA TO DISCOUNT COMMERCIAL BILLS.

[Consul Homer Brett, La Guaira, Oct. 3.]

The Bank of Venezuela, in a circular dated September 28, informs its customers that, with the object of broadening its field of operations and assisting commerce, it will henceforth discount commercial paper (acceptances and notes) originating in the sale and purchase of merchandise. The interest rate for terms of 90 days or less is fixed at 8 per cent annual and that for terms of from 90 days to 6 months at 9 per cent.

With this and other extensions of activity on the part of the Bank of Venezuela, the establishment of the Royal Bank of Canada, and of the National City Bank of New York, the banking facilities at the command of Venezuelan business men are much better than a year ago.

Opening of Northumberland Strait Ferry Service.

Consul E. Verne Richardson reports from Moncton, New Brunswick, under date of October 11, that it is officially announced that the railway car ferry across Northumberland Strait from Cape Tormentine, New Brunswick, to Port Borden (lately Carleton Point) Prince Edward Island, will begin the regular handling of traffic on Monday, October 15, 1917.

BRITISH MACHINERY IN FUTURE SOUTH AMERICAN TRADE.

[Consul E. Haldeman Dennison, Birmingham, Sept. 25.]

Engineer, a British technical paper, in its issue of September 21, 1917, states that, notwithstanding the expected release of a large number of the factories now engaged upon munitions as soon as peace has been proclaimed, there is some doubt about the ability to replace in anything like sufficient quantities the immense amount of machinery that will be required; that during the past two years European manufacturers have had great difficulty in complying with the demands for new machinery of any kind; and since the United States became a belligerent, the same lack of ability to fill South American orders has been manifest from this direction.

Expect Large Quantity to Be Scrapped.

Important repairs have been postponed, and an enormous quantity of existing machinery will have to be "scrapped" and replaced entirely by new installations.

The paper refers to the recent formation in the United States of a company representing a group of leading, but noncompeting, manufacturers of construction machinery, for the purpose of grappling with the unprecedented demand that is expected after the war. It suggests that it would be well for British manufacturers to follow the example of the Americans, and form a similar combination, which it thinks would prove of undoubted benefit for developing both the South and Central American markets. British firms, it states, have been receiving many inquiries from these countries, the greatest demand seemingly being for machine tools and sugar-cane machinery, all kinds of labor-saving construction machinery, and agricultural machines and implements.

SALE OF SUMATRA TOBACCO IN AMSTERDAM.

[Consul Frank W. Mahin, Amsterdam, Netherlands, Sept. 22.]

The third public tobacco sale this year in Amsterdam where foreigners were purchasers was held September 21. Altogether 18,650 packages (one package=179 pounds) of Sumatra were sold. Buyers for American firms took 2,575 packages and paid very high prices, ranging from 3.75 to 5.81 florins (\$1.51 to \$2.34) per half kilo (1.1 pounds), the average being 5.20 florins (\$2.09).

The average price of Sumatra sold at the two preceding public sales this year was only 2.40 florins (\$0.96½). But the price paid by American buyers at the second sale, held July 13, 1917, averaged 4 florins (\$1.61) per half kilo.

The high prices at yesterday's sale were due to the excellent quality of the kind specially desired by the United States, and also to be relatively small quantity offered and the doubtful prospect of the receipt of further supplies in the near future.

Other kinds were sold to buyers of other nationalities at prices ranging from 2.10 to 4.40 florins (\$0.84 to \$1.77) per half kilo, the average being approximately \$1.20.

"Your Patriotic Duty—Buy a Liberty Loan Bond."

COTTON PIECE GOODS IN NEW ZEALAND.

[Consul General Alfred A. Winslow, Auckland.]

In value New Zealand's imports of cotton piece goods during 1916 made a very large gain over 1914, but it is generally understood that the quantity for 1915 and 1916 fell short of the quantities imported for the two years previous to the outbreak of the European war. From the following table, covering 1914, 1915, and 1916 by countries of origin, it will be seen that American and Japanese manufacturers made relatively greater gains than did the British:

Imported from—	1914	1915	1916
United States.....	\$173,426	\$334,424	\$488,220
Belgium.....	50,271	5,892	3,366
Canada.....	1,932	5,046	10,142
Germany.....	72,457	8,135	748
Japan.....	63,711	78,909	315,192
United Kingdom.....	3,515,058	4,307,789	6,783,278
All other countries.....	80,991	80,204	87,404
Total.....	3,957,846	4,824,399	7,698,350

The value of the imports of cotton piece goods for the first four months of 1917 amounted to \$2,452,215, as compared with \$2,038,583 for the corresponding period of 1916. It is understood that a greater proportion of these came from the United States than ever before—with a splendid opening for more, since European manufacturers are not able to meet the demands and stocks here are getting low, especially in butter and cheese cloth and the coarser cotton fabrics. American cotton goods have made a good showing in New Zealand during the past year, and if care is taken in the future and the field is well worked, this trade can be very greatly increased and held. Most of these goods enter New Zealand free from all countries, with the exception of a 1 per cent war tax. Butter cloth and cheese cloth, however, pay a duty of 20 per cent ad valorem, except when imported from the United Kingdom or British possessions.

Samples sent to New Zealand retail dealers (who import largely) and warehousemen, with prices quoted, should do good work. Then great care should be taken to have the shipments measure up to sample.

[A list of New Zealand cotton piece goods dealers and importers may be procured from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district and cooperative offices by referring to file No. 93608.]

EXPORTS FROM LA GUAIRA TO UNITED STATES.

[Consul Homer Brett, La Guaira, Venezuela, Oct. 1.]

The exports invoiced at the La Guaira consulate for the United States during the quarter ended September 30, 1917, were valued at \$466,144, as compared with \$229,994 for the corresponding quarter of 1916. There were increases in the shipments of coffee, cacao, and hides while the exports of sugar were 12 times as great. New items appearing among the exports were maize, 1,827,714 pounds, valued at \$43,997; beans, 68,517 pounds, worth \$5,377; peas, 122,122 pounds, \$7,226; tobacco 7,122 pounds, \$671; and castor beans, 1,690 pounds, worth \$74.90. Exports of sabadilla seed also showed a large increase.

EXPORT PROHIBITION OF GOLD IN JAPAN.

[Commercial Attaché Frank R. Rutter, Tokyo, Sept. 20.]

A decree prohibiting the exportation of gold from Japan, except under license from the Minister of Finance, was promulgated in the Official Gazette on September 12, 1917. The text of the decree is as follows:

Any person desiring to export gold coin or gold bullion must obtain a license from the Minister of Finance. This regulation shall not apply to travelers carrying gold coin in amounts not exceeding 100 yen.

Any person violating this order shall be liable to imprisonment for not more than three months or to a fine of not more than 100 yen. Any person who collects, melts, or defaces gold coin for the purpose of selling or using it as bullion shall be liable to the same penalties.

This decree shall be in force from the day of its promulgation.

In an accompanying statement the Minister of Finance attributes the need of the decree to the restrictions placed upon the exportation of gold from the United States. The close connection of the two measures is obvious. Private cablegrams announcing the prohibition of the export of gold from the United States are said to have been received as early as September 5. At first, however, it was reported in the press that the order was confined to shipments to neutral countries of Europe, and it was not until September 10 that official confirmation defining the precise terms of the order was received. The Japanese measure was issued within two days from that time.

The Minister of Finance states that the prevailing rate of exchange has led to heavy shipments of gold from Japan to China. This movement, although discouraged by the Japanese Government, was not serious as long as the stock of gold here could be replenished from the United States. The Minister gives assurance that the decree will be administered in such a way as to prevent any injury to the trade and industry of the country.

On September 14 the Minister of Finance published regulations for the enforcement of the decree. Application for a license to export gold or silver coin or bullion from Japan must be presented to the Minister of Finance through the Bank of Japan, and must state: (1) the kind, quantity, and estimated value of the coin or bullion; (2) the name, address, and trading name of the shipper; (3) the destination of the shipment and the name, address, and trading name of the consignee; (4) the date of intended shipment; (5) the port of exportation; (6) the vessel on which the shipment will be made; and (7) the purpose of the shipment and the circumstances necessitating the shipment. The license, if granted, will be delivered to the applicant through the Bank of Japan. If the application is rejected, the applicant will be notified through the Bank of Japan.

Gold Movement.

The movement of gold into and from Japan has grown to enormous proportions within the last year. As compared with specie and bullion exports of \$14,000,000 in 1912 and \$13,000,000 in 1913, the shipments in 1915 amounted to \$22,000,000; in 1916, to \$14,000,000; and during the first eight months of 1917 to \$59,000,000. The increase in imports of gold and silver has been still greater. As compared with less than \$6,000,000 in 1912 and half a million in 1913,

the imports rose to \$12,000,000 in 1915, \$50,000,000 in 1916, and \$159,000,000 during the first eight months of 1917.

About \$20,000,000 worth of gold was obtained from Asiatic Russia and \$500,000 from Hongkong in April, and \$3,000,000 worth from Canada in June. With these and a few minor exceptions, practically all of the specie and bullion that has flowed into Japan has been drawn from the United States. On the export side British India has displaced China as the leading destination of the outgoing gold and silver. Of the \$46,000,000 worth exported to the end of July, 1917, India obtained about \$27,000,000, China \$10,000,000, and Hongkong \$7,700,000. With war difficulties in the way of settling its balance in London, Japan is compelled to ship precious metals in payment for its supplies of Indian cotton. Notwithstanding the constant large excess of exports over imports in its trade with China, Japan regularly remits to China considerable amounts of the precious metals. Presumably the favorable balance of trade both in merchandise and specie represents substantial investment in China.

The shipments of gold from the United States to Japan this year are sufficient to pay three times over the balance of trade resulting from the excess in value of our silk imports over our cotton exports. The amount is just about enough to offset the large export shipments of Japan to the United Kingdom and France, as well as to the United States. American loans to the two European countries are apparently being used in part to pay off their current debt to Japan.

Prior to the outbreak of the war, the United Kingdom and Germany exported regularly to Japan goods worth much more than the products they imported, while the United States and France have for many years imported from Japan much more largely than they have exported. This situation results naturally from the large purchases of raw silk in the United States and France. The trade with Europe and the United States was financed through London, save for occasional shipments of gold between the United States and Japan to settle accumulated balances. While the excess of Japanese exports to France and the United States was inadequate to offset the large excess of Japanese imports from the United Kingdom, Germany, and British India, the balance instead of being remitted in coin or bullion was offset by European investments in the Far East.

Gold Held by Japanese Government and Bank of Japan.

The supply of gold held by the Japanese Government and the Bank of Japan has increased \$14,000,000 during the first half of September, and on September 15, 1917, amounted to \$500,000,000. Somewhat over half of the total (\$273,000,000) is on deposit in foreign countries. The larger part of the aggregate holdings both in Japan and foreign countries (\$346,000,000) is in possession of the Bank of Japan.

A remarkable rise in the bullion value of gold is reported. One momme of gold (0.12057 troy ounce) is quoted at 5.70 yen, while its mint value is only 5 yen. In a statement issued by the Bank of Japan, this abnormal situation is attributed in part to the recent embargo decree. While the practice of melting gold coin was made illegal in 1906, the order contained no penal provision and was, therefore, not strictly enforced. The new decree makes the penalty for this action the same as for the unlicensed exportation of gold.

Imports and Exports of Gold and Silver.

The following table shows the monthly gold and silver imports and exports (specie and bullion) of Japan for the last five years. It will be noted that while the imports were large in January, August, and November, 1916, they began their unprecedented rise in April, 1917.

Month.	1913	1914	1915	1916	1917 (Jan. to Aug.)
IMPORTS.					
January.....	\$1,000	\$311,000	\$734,000	\$13,439,000	\$2,037,000
February.....	(a)	6,000	563,000	656,000	1,573,000
March.....	7,000	.....	189,000	493,000	5,303,000
April.....	.....	17,000	128,000	304,000	24,461,000
May.....	1,000	41,000	40,000	21,000	24,502,000
June.....	.....	361,000	50,000	17,000	28,272,000
July.....	(a)	333,000	134,000	1,634,000	34,826,000
August.....	32,000	68,000	214,000	10,113,000	37,838,000
September.....	65,000	1,118,000	288,000	5,409,000	.....
October.....	45,000	428,000	3,283,000	4,052,000	.....
November.....	178,000	336,000	1,634,000	10,346,000	.....
December.....	178,000	1,511,000	4,844,000	3,829,000	.....
Total.....	507,000	4,530,000	12,101,000	50,313,000	158,612,000
EXPORTS.					
January.....	900,000	1,164,000	1,025,000	100,000	4,814,000
February.....	771,000	1,337,000	1,280,000	76,000	2,258,000
March.....	2,034,000	498,000	2,840,000	396,000	2,005,000
April.....	852,000	1,090,000	3,448,000	413,000	2,998,000
May.....	1,554,000	841,000	2,904,000	384,000	10,602,000
June.....	2,246,000	371,000	1,361,000	417,000	9,916,000
July.....	579,000	561,000	2,963,000	145,000	13,991,000
August.....	1,028,000	390,000	3,425,000	433,000	13,059,000
September.....	1,273,000	2,202,000	1,850,000	446,000	.....
October.....	627,000	3,974,000	929,000	732,000	.....
November.....	548,000	1,662,000	95,000	1,786,000	.....
December.....	998,000	617,000	76,000	8,667,000	.....
Total.....	13,490,000	14,767,000	22,196,000	13,985,000	59,343,000

a Less than \$1,000.

b Preliminary figures.

For the first 10 days of September the imports of specie and bullion amounted to \$7,424,000 and the exports to \$4,764,000. The former figure is materially below the average for August, while the latter is slightly higher than the August 10-day average.

Balance of Trade and Shipments of Gold and Silver.

It is of interest to compare the merchandise balance with the gold and silver balance in the trade with different countries. The following table is accordingly presented for reference. It will be noted that the first five countries show for each year an excess of exports over imports, while the last three countries (in the case of the United Kingdom, prior to 1915) show an excess of imports. Excess of imports is indicated by a minus (—) sign:

Country.	1917 (Jan. to July.)	1916	1915	1914	1913	1912
MERCHANDISE.						
China.....	\$53,000,000	\$41,900,000	\$37,500,000	\$51,900,000	\$46,000,000	\$29,900,000
Hongkong.....	14,000,000	16,800,000	12,800,000	16,100,000	16,100,000	13,800,000
Asiatic Russia.....	24,400,000	57,700,000	37,200,000	9,700,000	1,700,000	1,400,000
France.....	26,600,000	29,600,000	19,100,000	13,300,000	27,100,000	19,200,000
United States.....	31,000,000	67,800,000	50,600,000	49,700,000	30,900,000	20,800,000
British India.....	34,000,000	—53,700,000	—52,500,000	—66,900,000	—71,400,000	—55,380,000
Great Britain.....	37,900,000	10,500,000	61,800,000	—29,500,000	—44,700,000	—43,000,000
Germany.....	— 500,000	— 2,000,000	— 2,900,000	—17,400,000	—27,500,000	—23,700,000
All other.....	7,800,000	16,100,000	—56,000,000	—29,100,000	—27,100,000	— 8,900,000
Total.....	160,200,000	184,980,000	87,000,000	— 2,300,000	—48,200,000	—45,800,000

Country.	1917 (Jan. to July.)	1916	1915	1914	1913	1912
GOLD AND SILVER.						
China.....	\$9,800,000	\$9,100,000	-\$1,800,000	-\$3,000,000	\$4,500,000	\$3,200,000
Hongkong.....	7,200,000	1,900,000	600,000	3,900,000	5,600,000	4,800,000
Asiatic Russia.....	-19,500,000	-19,500,000	(a)	(a)	(a)	(a)
France.....		(a)				
United States.....	-97,200,000	-25,100,000	19,700,000	7,900,000	900,000	-4,800,000
British India.....	27,100,000	-1,100,000	-7,100,000			(a)
Great Britain.....		-1,000,000	-1,000,000		(a)	(a)
Germany.....				1,200,000	1,200,000	
All other.....	-2,100,000	-600,000	-300,000	200,000	500,000	200,000
Total.....	-74,700,000	-36,300,000	10,100,000	10,200,000	13,000,000	8,400,000

a Less than \$1,000.

MEDICAL STORES IN MADRAS.

[Consul Lucien Memminger, Madras, India, Aug. 17.]

The Government medical stores in Madras, operated by the Indian Medical Service, are perhaps the largest in all India, and before the outbreak of the war were specializing in drugs. They supplied the whole Presidency and also the military hospitals, and manufactured drugs from Madras were sent to Bengal and Burma, as well as to other parts of the Empire. Imported drugs were also distributed by the stores, which always kept on hand a large stock.

In 1912 Calcutta, which until then also had been manufacturing drugs, was converted into a purely distributing center, the machinery there being transferred to Madras. Rangoon shared the same fate, becoming only a depot for the distribution of drugs, but Bombay was left undisturbed and the stores there have been specializing in the manufacture of surgical instruments. The Lahore stores form a comparatively small concern and their field is confined practically to the Punjab.

Manufacturing Interests Developed.

For various reasons, among which is the difficulty in obtaining supplies from other countries, the scope of activities of the Madras stores is being enlarged, and new ground is being broken in the direction of manufacturing, in the country, drugs which until lately were imported. In consultation with the surgeon general for Madras Province, a careful inquiry has been undertaken into the possibilities of growing various medicinal plants in India, and a search is being instituted for mineral substances used in the manufacture of drugs.

The director of the stores in Madras hopes to be able to make disinfectants locally, more especially those of the phenol group, emetine from ipecacuanha, and starch from rice. The possibilities of making glycerine are also being investigated. The manufacture of castor oil is now being conducted at the Madras stores. It is proposed also to increase the production of field dressings, bandages, etc. Quinine tabloids are largely handled by the stores, but the actual manufacturing is done principally at a special Government factory in the Nilgiris. It is stated that an officer of the Indian Medical Service at Simla has completed inquiries with a view to obtaining an increased area for the cultivation of cinchona in Madras, Bombay, and Burma, and will visit Assam and the Punjab with a similar object in view.

GERMAN ECONOMIC ORGANIZATION.

[British (Government) Board of Trade Journal, Sept. 27.]

The *Neue Züricher Zeitung* of August 27 follows up its review of the progress made in industrial discoveries and processes in Germany during the war [see **COMMERCE REPORTS** for Oct. 4, 1917] with a review of the progress accomplished in the field of economic organization in that country in the same period. The chief characteristic of the third year of war has, it is said, been the tendency toward compulsory and voluntary syndication of industrial concerns.

Compulsory syndication has been demanded by the Government to secure economy, in view of the scarcity of material and the shortage of labor, while voluntary syndication has been suggested and carried out by the parties interested by way of preparation for the prospective economic war, and in order to facilitate the return of peace conditions in the economic sphere, though in some cases this action has been in response to suggestions and hints on the part of the Government. This was the case with the renewal of the coal syndicate, in which all mining firms hitherto remaining outside are now included. The sole reason for the smooth progress of the negotiations was the threat of compulsory syndication in the event of nonagreement.

Union of the Chemical Industries.

The great union in the chemical industry, on the other hand, has been voluntary. This combine, which is for a period of 50 years, is primarily of a defensive nature. The constituent works retain complete independence and freedom of action, but profits will be pooled, all manufacturing experiences exchanged, and all products produced in at least two places. This arrangement, it is hoped, will do much to further the exploitation of new discoveries and to promote technical progress, with the result that the position of the German chemical industry in the world market will be strengthened. [See **COMMERCE REPORTS** for May 27, 1916.]

Agreements with the same object have recently been made between the dyeing and explosives groups of industries. Details of the compact have not yet been made public. It is only known that an agreement has been made concerning the peace-time production and the sale of such articles as have always been produced by both groups. The explosives group consists of a combination of the dynamite trust and the powder group, which before the war were accustomed to divide profits according to a definite scale.

Since the outbreak of the war the largest German explosives factory, the Dynamite A. G. Nobel, in Hamburg, has been the center of German dynamite interests. An examination of the list of firms combining to form the German explosives trust and the powder trust, with those forming the aniline combine, shows that the German chemical industry is closely united.

Other Combines—Iron Syndicate.

The same tendency is observable in the central combines of the German wholesale trade, the shipping trade, etc., which have arisen during the third year of the war, and also in the efforts now being made toward the further syndication of numerous small industries—e. g., the rope, leather, iron small wares, and enamel industries. The pool-

ing tendencies do not, however, meet with approval everywhere. In the leather industry, for instance, there is keen opposition between the heavy branches, which are in favor of a trust, and the fine branches, which are against it.

In the iron industry syndication proceeds slowly but surely, and not without official support. A bar-iron syndicate is being formed, but it has not yet won over some important concerns, on whose adherence the permanence of such a combination would depend. Efforts are now being made to reestablish the rolled-wire combine, which was dissolved soon after the outbreak of war. On the whole, the syndicate idea has gained ground in the by-products industry much more quickly and distinctly than had been expected. But it is not probable that all the recently formed syndicates will continue after the war, unless Government action is taken to insure that they should continue, at any rate for the transition period, in the interests of national economy.

In addition to the combines properly so called there have been numerous amalgamations and fusions of individual concerns, which are further evidence of the general tendency toward the development of large organizations in German economic life. Numerous individual men of business are retiring into private life, their places being taken, as a rule, by large companies and combines. This concentration has been further promoted by measures taken or proposed within the States, such as the proposal to tax turnover. Were such a proposal carried into effect, it would probably give a great advantage to the large enterprises which carry on the whole range of production from the raw material to the finished product, so that the turnover is not subject to frequent charges. Such measures have brought about a similar concentration in trade, as they have resulted in many liquidations of smaller firms.

Banks Play a Minor Rôle in These Amalgamations.

The rôle played by the banks in these fusions, amalgamations, and absorptions is much less important than in peace times; firstly, because the undertakings have, as a rule, made such large war profits that they can dispense with the assistance of banks; and, secondly, because the banks themselves are undergoing a process of concentration, which is, however, being carried on below the surface. The chief reason for this tendency toward concentration is that the problems confronting German finance on the conclusion of peace (the problems connected with supplies of raw materials, resumption of issue, reconstruction of credit organizations, etc.) can be accomplished only by institutions of extraordinary capacity and internal strength. The result of this must perforce be a further reduction in the number of medium-sized houses.

In connection with the foregoing it will be of interest to add that, according to the *Berliner Tageblatt* of August 31, the negotiations for the establishment of a bar-iron syndicate in Germany have been successful, and a syndicate has been formed, while the German Steel Smelters' Syndicate is to continue to exist in its present form until March 31, 1918.

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WAGE INCREASES IN GERMANY DURING THE WAR.

[Bremer Bürger-Zeitung, Bremen, Sept. 1.]

The Imperial Bureau of Statistics has addressed letters of inquiry concerning wage increases during the war to all industrial establishments which submit regular reports on the conditions of the labor market to the Reichsarbeitsblatt. Although the compilation of the data has not yet been completed, some very interesting figures have been published in the Reichsarbeitsblatt. Inquiries were made concerning the working days of adult male and female workers and the wages paid them during the last two full weeks of March and September, 1914, 1915, and 1916, and the investigation embraced 369 principal establishments in 13 industrial groups. The wage conditions prevailing in these establishments may be considered typical for the better-paid classes of workers.

In any case it can not be said that the results are too favorable, as against the average, since the data have been furnished by employers. Hence it is so much the more remarkable that the results of the investigation, while naturally showing a considerable increase of wages during the first two years of the war, still do show that even the wages of these better-paid workers have not at all kept pace with the increase in the prices of foodstuffs and other products.

Uniform Development in All Groups.

In nearly all the industrial groups and subdivisions a uniform development is noticeable; at first a decline between March and September of 1914, and thereafter an unbroken upward movement of wages until September, 1916. The average wage of the men declined from 5.17 to 5.12 marks. By September, 1916, it had risen to 7.55 marks, an increase of 46 per cent as compared with March, 1914. The greatest increase, 14.8 per cent, took place between September, 1914, and March, 1915. On the other hand, the average wage of the women declined from 2.29 to 1.94 marks by September, 1914, the decrease being proportionately much larger than the decline in men's wages. However, the several raises following increased the average wage to 3.53 marks in September, 1916, or 54 per cent above the wages prevailing in March, 1914. The greatest increase, 18.3 per cent, took place in the second winter of the war. Thus the average wage increase during the period was 46 per cent for the men and 54 per cent for the women. These are extraordinary increases, to be sure, but they are still quite insufficient, as the prices of foodstuffs increased at least 100 per cent during the same period.

The movement of wages in the individual groups is shown in the following table:

Groups of industries.	Male workers.			Female workers.		
	March, 1914.	September, 1916.	Increase.	March, 1914.	September, 1916.	Increase.
	Marks.	Marks.	Per cent.	Marks.	Marks.	Per cent.
Machinery.....	5.83	7.89	48	2.28	3.88	70
Electrical industries.....	4.52	7.44	65	2.75	4.80	75
Iron and metals.....	5.55	8.02	45	2.00	4.11	100
Chemicals.....	5.14	6.90	34	2.36	3.55	50
Paper.....	3.94	5.54	41	2.29	2.94	28
Wood.....	4.22	5.61	33	1.99	2.59	30

OPENING FOR READY-MADE CLOTHING IN NEW ZEALAND.

[Consul General Alfred A. Winslow, Auckland, May 30.]

There is at this time an exceptionally good opening in New Zealand for ready-made clothing from the United States, providing care is taken to conform to the local tastes and customs of the country, since the supplies from European manufacturers are very greatly curtailed.

More clothing is now being manufactured in New Zealand than before the war, and this industry will expand unless imports can be supplied at sufficiently low prices to compete with the homemade article.

The following table gives the imports of ready-made clothing, by countries of origin, for the years 1914, 1915, and 1916:

Countries.	1914	1915	1916	Countries.	1914	1915	1916
United Kingdom	\$4,868,155	\$4,053,639	\$5,140,435	Switzerland.....	\$30,299	\$50,952	\$99,101
Canada.....	25,155	40,616	42,874	Japan.....	65,990	79,100	292,535
Australia.....	39,709	35,900	32,426	United States...	154,798	126,154	222,370
Belgium.....	26,853	8,765	3,100	All other coun-			
France.....	70,593	67,226	68,754	tries.....	40,266	18,848	17,675
Germany.....	351,902	31,700	910				
Italy.....	12,215	17,670	25,330	Total.....	5,680,084	4,530,570	5,945,509

These figures show a decrease for all three years compared with the imports for 1913, which totaled \$6,222,378. This indicates quite a marked decrease in quantity, since the cost of wearing apparel has very greatly increased. The imports of wearing apparel for the first three months of 1917 were valued at \$1,826,149, as compared with \$1,748,485 for the same period in 1916.

The imports of ready-made clothing from the United Kingdom made a slight gain over 1914, but decreased from 1913, when the imports amounted to \$5,880,211. Switzerland, the United States, and especially Japan, made considerable increases. The imports from Germany in 1914 amounted to \$354,982, as compared with \$27,496 in 1913.

It should be noted that American ready-made clothing enters this market on the same basis as British-made goods, since the import duty is 25 per cent from all countries, with a 1 per cent war tax on all imports. This should encourage American exporters to go after business here at this time.

The business houses handling this class of merchandise in New Zealand have been accustomed to pay against documents at port of delivery, and it is clear that if American interests expect to compete successfully with the European manufacturers they must put themselves in position to meet some such terms, unless they are able to quote sufficiently low prices to induce sales on a cash basis.

[A list of importers and dealers in dry goods in New Zealand in position to handle ready-made clothing may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district or cooperative offices by referring to file No. 93654.]

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PEANUTS AS A PRODUCT OF FUKIEN PROVINCE.

[Vice Consul Andrew J. Brewer, Amoy, China, Sept. 6.]

Though the culture of peanuts can not be considered one of the principal industries of the southern half of Fukien Province, they are grown in considerable quantities and furnish the inhabitants with a very important food product. There are four recognized centers of production—Chuanchow, Changchow, Tungan, and Kangbay. The first two of these barely raise sufficient quantities for local consumption, while the last two have a surplus for exportation. Most of this surplus is consumed at Amoy.

Three kinds of nuts are produced. The "big-shell nut" is thought to have the best flavor, but the soil does not seem particularly well adapted to its cultivation, and it is not grown in very large quantities. Those produced are kept until winter, then roasted and used as a food.

The "mandarin-duck nut" has two medium-sized kernels connected by a very narrow stem, and because this stem is so easily broken in taking it from the ground it is not a favorite.

Riu-kiu Nut Best Adapted to Soil.

The Riu-kiu nut, so called because it is supposed to have been indigenous to the Riu-kiu or Loo Choo Islands, is produced in the greatest quantity. In size and flavor it is slightly inferior to the "big-shell nut," but it has two very marked advantages. Its practically globular shape makes harvesting very easy, and important to an even greater degree is the circumstance that it seems best adapted to the local soil. Two crops are grown in a year. The early one is planted about March 15, and matures early in August. The late crop is sown almost immediately after the harvesting of the earlier one and ripens in October. The former has the advantage of more suitable temperature and rainfall, and invariably is larger. The latter as a rule is small, not only because it frequently suffers from adverse climatic conditions, but also because the farmers in their fear of unfavorable weather diminish the area sown.

Of the peanuts grown here very little more than one-fourth is used directly as a food. The remaining three-quarters is pressed for oil, which is used as a substitute for butter and lard, and when adulterated with bean oil brought from northern China, for illuminating purposes. The peanuts that are used as a food product are frequently kept a long time, even from one year into the next, first being thoroughly dried in the sun and then stored away.

The prices of the nuts used as food show only slight fluctuations. The undried nut remains around \$4.20 local currency (about \$3.25 at existing rates of exchange) per picul of 133½ pounds. The peanut oil, perhaps because the need of the nuts for food must be satisfied before any can be pressed into oil, is more subject to price fluctuations. During August the price slightly advanced, and this is interpreted as an indication that the crop which has just matured is not quite as good as usual.

Some Shipments from Abroad.

In addition to Amoy's purchases of peanuts from Kangbay, which has a soil so well adapted to this culture that no fertilization is

necessary, the town also draws some peanuts from abroad—principally from Hongkong and the Straits Settlements. The figures for this item, however, because of an unusually successful season locally, reached a minimum last year. The receipts from northern China, moreover, which formerly constituted the largest part of the total, have entirely ceased, and for several years have not been a factor in the local market.

Greater interest in the culture of peanuts is shown here every year. The prediction is made that if a desirable market is developed abroad, there will be no limit to the quantities produced in this vicinity. Such a market, it would appear from the experience of one local firm which made an effort a few years ago to export peanuts from this Province to New York, must be developed in the Philippine Islands, the Straits Settlements, and the Dutch East Indies, to which the present small amounts are being exported. The peanuts exported to New York were not thought to have as good a flavor as those grown in the United States, and this fact, coupled with the present very high trans-Pacific rates, makes any immediate effort to export to the United States improbable.

[Articles on the peanut industry in China were published in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for Oct. 5, 1916, and Mar. 3, 1917.]

TIN-PLATE SHORTAGE IN SPAIN.

[Consul Graham H. Kemper, Vigo, Sept. 17.]

The packers of sardines in Vigo and other parts of Spain are experiencing great difficulty in obtaining a sufficient supply of tin plate to meet their demands. In former years the greater part of the tin plate was imported from England, as the Spanish factories were able to supply only a part of the required amount. At present no tin plate is being imported from England, and the Vigo packers are looking to the United States for shipments, but they have not yet been very successful. In the Province of Pontevedra alone are some 50 sardine factories, more than half of them in Vigo. Tin plate is needed in a great majority of these plants.

[Copies of a list of sardine packers in the Vigo district may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 93944.]

OFFICES OF THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE.

DISTRICT OFFICES.

NEW YORK: 784 Customhouse.
BOSTON: 1801 Customhouse.
CHICAGO: 504 Federal Building.
ST. LOUIS: 402 Third National Bank Building.
NEW ORLEANS: 1020 Hibernia Bank Building.
SAN FRANCISCO: 807 Customhouse.
SEATTLE: 848 Henry Building.

COOPERATIVE OFFICES.

CLEVELAND: Chamber of Commerce.
CINCINNATI: Chamber of Commerce.
CINCINNATI: General Freight Agent, Southern Railway, 96 Ingalls Building.
LOS ANGELES: Chamber of Commerce.
PHILADELPHIA: Chamber of Commerce.
CHATTANOOGA: South American Agent, Southern Railway System.
PORTLAND, OREG.: Chamber of Commerce.
DAYTON: Greater Dayton Association.

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FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the **Bureau** and its **district and cooperative offices**. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and **state opportunity number**. The **Bureau** does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases. Symbols: * Reported by American consular officers; † Reported by commercial attaches and commercial agents; ‡ Direct inquiries received by the Bureau.

In considering the following "opportunities" special regard should be had to the laws and regulations governing export licenses and trading with the enemy.

Automobiles.....	25607	Machinery.....	25665, 25668, 25672, 25674
Butcher knives.....	25671	Nails.....	25675
Electric lamps.....	25673	Packing-house products.....	25666
Electrical devices.....	25660	Picks and shovels.....	25671
Engineering supplies.....	25664, 25674	Refrigerators.....	25670
Hammers, magnetic.....	25669	Rubber.....	25664
Hardware.....	25664	Stoves.....	25670
Hoes.....	25671	Tools.....	25664

25664.†—A man from Chile who is at present in the United States desires to secure an agency, on a commission basis, for the sale of engineering supplies, tools, technical rubber goods, shelf hardware, and kindred lines. Correspondence may be in English. References.

25665.‡—A man in Mexico wishes to receive quotations on machines for crushing corn stalks. He prefers a machine which will not only chop the stalks in pieces of any desired size, but also shred them in longitudinal sections, as well as crosswise, with a capacity of at least 10 tons per day of 10 hours. Steam power will be used. Quotations should be made f. o. b. El Paso, Tex. He will include freight charges in forwarding payment.

25666.†—A firm in Tasmania desires to secure agencies for the sale of packing-house products, electrical devices of all kinds, and merchandise in general. Payment will be made by credit terms or against documents. References.

25667.*—An agency is desired by a man in Switzerland for the sale of automobiles costing up to \$1,000, and other industrial lines. References.

25668.‡—Cuban government officials in the United States desire to receive catalogues from American manufacturers and exporters of machinery used in making peanut oil and machinery for crushing and pressing heavier nut oils, such as that contained in the soya bean and copra.

25669.*—A firm in France desires to purchase 300 magnetic hammers with handles. Correspondence should be in French. Reference.

25670.*—An agency is desired by a dealer in Italy for the sale of kitchen stoves, refrigerators, and oil stoves. Catalogues should be submitted. Correspondence should be in French or Italian. References.

25671.†—A company in Portuguese East Africa is in the market for weeding and grubbing hoes, 21-pound picks, butcher knives with wooden handles and brass rivets, low-priced shovels for mining and coal bunkering. Oakum for calking wooden boats, cross-cut saws and pit saws, and nuts and bolts in English standard Whitworth thread.

25672.*—A firm in France desires to secure an agency for the sale of milling machines. Correspondence should be in French. Reference.

25673.*—A mining corporation in Italy wishes to purchase several thousand electric lamps. Credit has been opened in New York for payment. Correspondence should be in French or Italian.

25674.†—A company of importers in Colombia desires to receive catalogues from American manufacturers and exporters of engineering supplies and all kinds of machinery, especially portable fiber-cleaning machinery, small road rollers, and rock crushers.

25675.*—A company in India wishes to purchase and secure an agency for the sale of triangular jagged nails and clout nails. Payment will be made by cash against documents in Calcutta. Correspondence may be in English. Reference.

COMMERCE REPORTS



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NET SELLING PRICES FOR BRITISH IRON.

[Consul E. Haldeman Dennison, Birmingham, Oct. 4.]

In a report of the sales of iron made by 17 selected firms for the months of July and August, 1917, it is shown that the average net selling price was £15 5s. 10d. (\$74.41) per long ton. The following table gives the different classes of iron sold and the average net selling price (per ton) of each class:

Description.	Weight sold (long tons).	Per cent of total sales.	Average net price per ton.
Bars.....	20, 913	69. 63	\$72. 45
Angles and tees.....	964	3. 21	74. 67
Plates and sheets.....	508	1. 69	88. 00
Hoops, strips, and miscellaneous.....	7, 652	25. 47	78. 83
Total.....	30, 037	100. 00	74. 41

INCREASED COAL PRODUCTION IN FRANCE.

[Commercial Attaché C. W. A. Veditz, Paris.]

The monthly production of coal in France has increased from 1,576,062 tons in June, 1916, to 2,345,251 tons in June, 1917, the output of the French coal mines having increased almost steadily during the intervening period. The increase in the output has continued since June, 1917, at which time the total French production, added to the imports of British coal, reached a total of over 3,960,000 tons. French production and British imports in August, 1917, amounted to 4,346,000 tons, the French mines having produced 2,666,000 tons, as compared with 1,616,000 tons in August, 1916.

CANADIAN DECREE AFFECTS PACKAGE-GOODS TRADE.

The sale of small packages of breakfast foods will be restricted in the Canadian market after November 1 for wholesalers and December 1 for retailers under an order in council dated October 19 and

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published in the official Canada Gazette of October 20. The decree reads:

1. Unless licensed thereto under the provisions of this ordinance no manufacturer or wholesale dealer shall on and after the 1st day of November, 1917, and no retail dealer shall on and after the 1st day of December, 1917, offer for sale in Canada any foods known as breakfast foods, or cereals, or flour, or other foods which are the product of wheat, oats, barley, rye, rice, peas, beans, buckwheat, Indian corn (maize), or lentils in original packages of less weight than 20 pounds.

2. All such foods shall be sold by the pound or ton, and shall be net weight to the purchaser.

3. The food controller shall have the power to grant licenses, in such form and upon such terms and conditions as he may prescribe, for the sale of any such foods in original packages of such lesser weight or size as he may deem expedient, and may by written order exempt from the provisions of this ordinance any particular class or classes of persons, communities, or places during such period or periods as may be prescribed in such order, and may from time to time revoke or change any such order.

EXPORTS OF MINERAL OILS SHOW BIG INCREASES.

More mineral oils were exported from the United States during the fiscal year 1917 than ever before, the total amounting to 2,749,438,434 gallons, valued at \$230,953,149, according to figures made public by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, of the Department of Commerce. This was an increase of approximately 300,000,000 gallons and \$65,000,000 over 1916 and about 470,000,000 gallons and \$79,000,000 over 1914, the last normal year before the war. Only a small percentage of the total exported was crude oil.

The war has had the effect of reducing the exports of illuminating oil, the foreign sales for 1917 totaling 835,114,403 gallons, valued at \$54,662,094, against 1,157,283,310 gallons, valued at \$74,500,162, in 1914. Exports of gas and fuel oil, however, have more than doubled in quantity and value in the last three years, increasing from 475,143,205 gallons, valued at \$13,747,863, in 1914 to 1,040,671,713 gallons, valued at \$32,473,872, in 1917. The exports of gasoline and lubricating oils have also increased substantially, as indicated in the following table:

Oils.	Fiscal year ended June 30—			
	1917		1914	
	Gallons.	Value.	Gallons.	Value.
EXPORTS.				
Crude oil.....	176,368,675	\$7,162,550	146,477,342	\$6,812,672
Gas and fuel oil.....	1,040,671,713	32,473,872	475,143,205	13,747,863
Illuminating oil.....	835,114,403	54,662,094	1,157,283,310	74,500,162
Lubricating oil.....	271,023,546	48,649,557	196,884,096	27,852,959
Gasoline.....	228,185,730	40,936,510	151,611,537	21,690,475
Naphtha.....	199,517,400	41,034,753	40,840,730	5,653,210
Residium.....	551,967	33,813	113,370,245	1,907,715
Total exports.....	2,749,438,434	230,953,149	2,281,611,065	152,174,056
Shipments to noncontiguous territory.....	109,570,267	5,937,214	101,972,887	3,635,172
Total shipments and exports.....	2,359,008,701	236,890,363	2,383,583,952	155,809,228
IMPORTS.				
Crude.....	1,084,590,849	14,109,035	773,052,480	11,776,737
Benzine, gasoline, etc.....	10,804,864	1,402,275	16,139,912	1,400,740
All other.....	83,425,222	2,328,666	1,945,007	488,463
Total imports.....	1,078,820,935	17,839,976	791,137,399	13,665,940
Reexports.....	1,693,807	61,275	10,871	1,563
Net imports.....	1,077,127,128	17,778,701	791,126,528	13,664,377

WOOLEN PIECE GOODS IN NEW ZEALAND.

[Consul General Alfred A. Winslow, Auckland.]

The value of the woollen piece goods imported into New Zealand in 1916 does not give a fair indication of the trade in these goods unless one takes into account the great increase in prices, which in some cases has exceeded 100 per cent. At present stocks are in very good shape, but importers state that advices from British manufacturers indicate that they are not in position to promise delivery of future orders before the close of the war.

The following table gives New Zealand's imports of woollen piece goods by countries of origin for 1914, 1915, and 1916:

Imported from—	1914	1915	1916
United States.....	\$5	\$360	\$19,617
France.....	106,711	52,796	23,159
Germany.....	80,589	7,932	612
Netherlands.....	29,709	23,329	16,765
Switzerland.....	2,116	5,050	9,075
United Kingdom.....	1,533,770	1,568,749	4,013,343
All other.....	15,483	7,197	14,160
Total.....	1,768,333	1,665,413	4,096,721

American woollen goods made a fair showing during 1916, and created a favorable impression in the more common grades, which will do much for future trade. American styles and patterns are well liked. Woollen piece goods pay a duty of 20 per cent when imported from the United Kingdom or British possessions, and 30 per cent from other countries, with 1 per cent war tax in addition, which is collected on practically all imports.

The demand for the better grades of imported woollen piece goods in this country is much below what it was a few years since, for New Zealand woollen mills are turning out increasing supplies of fine grades of suitings, made from the finest classes of pure wool, and offered at prices somewhat lower than those for which much of the imported can be sold. Woollen piece goods are imported almost entirely by wholesale dry goods merchants, a list of whom is forwarded [and obtainable from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district and cooperative offices by referring to file No. 93608]. It would be well to send these people samples, with prices f. o. b. steamer at port of departure.

ENGLISH PUDDLERS' WAGES.

[Consul E. Haldeman Dennison, Birmingham, Oct. 4.]

It is announced that in accordance with the sliding-scale arrangements the wages for puddling during October and November, 1917, will be 17s. 6d. (\$4.258) per ton, and all other mill and forge wages will remain unaltered. These wages will take effect from October 8 and continue until December 1. In addition to the puddling rate of 17s. 6d., under the sliding scale there will be 6d. (\$0.122) per ton bonus given to the puddlers by resolution of the Wages Board which met on July 15, 1912. The bonus applies to puddlers only and will make the total puddling rate 18s. (\$4.38) per ton.

CONSTRUCTION WORK.**CHINA.**

[Consul General Edwin S. Cunningham, Hankow, Sept. 7.]

Erection of Buildings in the Russian Concession at Hankow.

Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co. (Ltd.) are about to commence the erection of a block of brick buildings two and three stories high in the Russian Concession, Hankow. It is intended to include 38 semidetached houses for residential purposes and 14 shops each having a residential flat. One corner will be suitable for a large retail concern and has been leased by Messrs. Whiteway, Laidlaw & Co.

The rental of the dwelling houses will be from 60 to 100 taels per month. The location of this block of buildings is excellent and will provide a long-felt want within the foreign concessions. The building is to be completed by July, 1918, and is to cost 400,000 Hankow taels (approximately \$440,000 gold).

The architects are Messrs. Hemmings & Berkley and the contractor is Han Yeh Sheng, both well and favorably known local firms. It is doubtful whether there will be opportunities for American manufacturers to supply any of the material, because the owners have their own European and American purchasing houses and will probably buy at wholesale in the respective countries all of the foreign material necessary for the erection of this block of buildings.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC.

[Consul Arthur McLean, Puerto Plata, Sept. 18.]

New Customhouse for Puerto Plata.

Work on a new customhouse will be commenced shortly in Puerto Plata. It will be a two-story reinforced concrete building 68 feet by 75 feet, to cost about \$10,000, and will be erected on the new wharf in Puerto Plata Harbor, which is rapidly nearing completion. A one-story shed of steel and zinc sheets will also be built on the same wharf. The shed will be 75 feet wide by 260 feet long and will cost about \$30,000. These two buildings are to be erected on a percentage basis by an American construction company under the supervision of the Public Works Department of the Dominican Government.

It is expected that both buildings will be completed by the 1st of April, 1918.

Owing to high prices and shortage of building materials, work has been stopped on the construction of over 40 stores and dwellings in Santiago de los Caballeros, the trade center of the northern half of the Dominican Republic.

Cement is selling at \$7.75 a barrel of 400 pounds gross, and pitch pine for \$85 per thousand feet in Santiago. Owing to the rapid increase in population, there is a great scarcity of both stores and dwellings, and it is almost impossible to secure either at reasonable rentals.

In many instances merchants are storing tobacco and other products in their homes, owing to lack of space in their warehouses.

MEXICO.

[Vice Consul Luther K. Zabriskie, Mexico City, Oct. 9.]

Construction of Bridges in the State of Tabasco.

According to an item appearing in the October 7, 1917, issue of *El Democrata*, published at Mexico City, the Secretary of Commu-

nications and Public Works has just authorized the city authorities of Villahermosa to undertake various public works, which will include the construction of bridges and passes over several rivers in the State of Tabasco. As a result of such improvements it is hoped that traffic will be encouraged within that district and an impetus given to the exploitation of the country and the development of the already existing industries. Interested parties should communicate directly with the Secretary of Communications and Public Works (Secretary of Comunicaciones y Obras Publicas), at 2a. Tacuba, No. 4, Mexico, D. F.

TURKEY.

[Consul William L. Jenkins, Trebizond, Aug. 8.]

Erection of Sawmill in Trebizond District.

Plans have been made for and work has already been started on the construction of a sawmill at Surmeneh, a small town on the Karadere River, 20 miles from Trebizond. The enterprise is being carried on under the direction of Signor Valatzi, an Italian, to whom a concession was granted by the former Russian authorities, and later ratified by the present Provisional Government, to cut down the timber on both sides of the Karadere River for a distance of 80 versts (53 miles) inland. The concession provides that by the end of the present calendar year 40,000 trunks must be sawed and delivered to the Voenni Stroitelstvo (Army Construction Management) at a stated price. Any surplus may be sold to private purchasers.

Although it is not anticipated that sawing operations can be commenced before November, the trees are being cut down and the bark removed while the sap is still in the trunks.

About 400 workmen are employed at present. It is estimated that approximately 200,000 trunks can be cut and sawed yearly. Three trunks are said to be required for 1 cubic meter of sawn timber. The wood is mostly pine and beech. The machinery is being brought from Russia proper, but is not of Russian manufacture, having been imported there before the war from either England or Germany.

ESTABLISHMENT OF A "SEA GILD" IN HAMBURG.

[From the Frankfurter Zeitung, of Aug. 28.]

The public is now able to obtain further particulars regarding the establishment of the new insurance association in Hamburg. Since last April, when the foremost commercial and shipping interests of Hamburg first announced their intention of establishing a "Lloyd's" of their own, the plans for the so-called "Sea Gild" have been worked out in detail. The association will have two classes of members. The first class will pay an entrance fee of 2,000 marks. At least 50 such members will be required in order to obtain money for the erection of necessary buildings and office quarters of the Sea Gild. Members of this class only will be allowed to conclude insurance contracts. The second class of members will have to pay an entrance fee of 1,000 marks and a further annual fee of 1,000 marks. Such members may act as insurance brokers. Both classes of members will have access to and use of the quarters of the Sea Gild.

[A report on the activities of the North German Lloyd during the war, in which reference was made of plans for the establishment of a marine-insurance business in Bremen, was published in COMMERCE REPORTS for Oct. 12, 1917.]

RESULTS OF CAMPAIGN FOR ECONOMY IN DELIVERIES.

A summary was prepared by the Commercial Economy Board of the Council of National Defense on September 27, 1917, showing some of the results of its recommendations for economy in the delivery service of retail stores. These recommendations, which were issued by the board on June 27, 1917, requested retail merchants to reduce their service by curtailing free delivery of small purchases, by eliminating special deliveries, by restricting deliveries, where possible, to not more than one a day on each route, by reducing the acceptance of return goods to a minimum, and by establishing cooperative systems in the small and medium-sized cities and towns.

This summary shows that the merchants in 26 cities, with a total population of 3,225,673, have reduced their deliveries to one a day on each route. The merchants in 5 cities, with a total population of 1,593,074, have reduced their daily deliveries to two in the central section and one in the suburbs, and the merchants in 23 cities, with a total population of 3,870,341, have reduced their deliveries to two a day. Several other cities, from which exact information had not been obtained when this summary was prepared, have made some reduction.

The merchants in 23 cities, with a total population of 5,588,076, make a charge for special deliveries in order to curtail that service. The merchants in 14 cities, with a total population of 2,468,934, have placed a two-day limit on returned goods; those in 8 cities, with a total population of 2,445,546, have placed a three-day limit on returned goods; and those in 11 other cities, with a population of 9,877,687, have placed restrictions of 5 to 7 days on the returned-goods privilege.

In 169 cities and towns in the United States, with a total population of 26,232,943, the board's recommendations had been adopted in some form, or were being considered at the time this summary was prepared.

Reports Received from Merchants.

From numerous stores information has been received by the Commercial Economy Board which shows to what extent these merchants have been able to reduce their delivery force. In one store which had previously operated 9 vehicles a reduction in deliveries from three to two per day enabled it to operate with 7 vehicles and to dispense with the services of 2 drivers and 2 helpers. A second store with a similar reduction dispensed with the services of 24 men out of a total of 167 and reduced the number of vehicles from 56 to 44. A third store reducing deliveries from three to two a day made a 10 per cent saving in men and vehicles, and a fourth store which had previously operated 42 vehicles reduced the number to 36. A fifth store reduced the number of deliveries from four a day to one a day, with a 40 per cent saving in men and equipment. A sixth store reduced deliveries from three to one a day, employing 1 man and 1 vehicle in the place of 3 men and 3 vehicles. These are typical of the savings that have resulted. Some merchants who have adopted two deliveries a day expect to reduce this to one a day as soon as their organization and the public become accustomed to the restricted service.

In the smaller cities a keen interest in cooperative delivery systems is being manifested. The board has made a careful investigation and finds that ordinarily the number of men employed can be reduced by at least one-half when the cooperative system is introduced. The board is gathering full information concerning the organization and operation of these cooperative systems.

The object of the board's campaign for economy in this service is to enable retail merchants to operate with smaller forces during the war. As men are withdrawn from delivery work and other store activities by voluntary enlistment in the Army and Navy and by service in the National Army, it is desirable that they should not be replaced by others who are more urgently needed in agriculture, shipbuilding, transportation, mining, manufacturing, and other work that is essential to the welfare of the country.

[The letter that was sent to merchants by the Commercial Economy Board was published in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for June 30, 1917.]

SPECIAL EXAMINATION FOR COAST GUARD CADETSHIPS.

A special examination of candidates for cadetship (line and engineer) in the Coast Guard will be held at several of the large cities in the United States, depending upon the location of the candidates, commencing on Monday, December 17, 1917, and continuing throughout that week. Regular examinations for these positions were held in June, but there was not a sufficient number of qualified candidates to fill the existing vacancies. It is hoped that a total of at least 20 cadets and cadet engineers will be obtained at this special examination.

Candidates for cadets (line) must be not under 18, nor more than 24 years of age, and those for cadet engineer not under 20, nor more than 25 at the date of appointment, which will be on or about January 15, 1918. Line cadets undergo three years of instruction at the Coast Guard Academy, New London, Conn., upon the successful completion of which they are commissioned third lieutenants in the Coast Guard, a grade which is assimilated to that of ensign in the Navy and second lieutenant in the Army. The pay of a line cadet is \$500 a year plus commuted rations at the rate of 45 cents a day. Cadet engineers undergo instruction for one year at the academy and receive \$75 a month and commuted rations. Upon successfully completing their course they are commissioned third lieutenants of engineers. Third lieutenants, both line and engineer, receive pay at the rate of \$1,700 a year, and officers commissioned in these grades are in the line of promotion to higher rank and pay.

By the terms of the act of June 28, 1915, the former Revenue-Cutter Service and Life-Saving Service were combined into the newly created Coast Guard, which performs all of the functions formerly pertaining to the component services. In time of war or emergency the Coast Guard operates under the Navy Department as a part of the Navy, but at other times it operates under the direction of the Secretary of the Treasury.

Pamphlets giving full information and samples of previous examinations, as well as blank forms for application, may be had by addressing the Captain Commandant, United States Coast Guard, Washington, D. C.

DYEWARES IN ENGLAND.

[Consul Augustus E. Ingram, Bradford, Oct. 3.]

The (London) Times Trade Supplement for October, 1917, has an article on chemicals and dyewares which aims to show that better supplies of dyestuffs than formerly are now available in this country. It states that undoubtedly there has been a distinct improvement from every point of view. "In certain quarters," it believes, "there has been a disposition to make insufficient allowance for the known difficulties of our few firms of color makers, but the veriest grumbler has now to acknowledge a betterment in quality, quantity, and the range at disposal. The main difficulty has been the intermediates; once these are provided dye making is a comparatively easy matter. Apart from the practical knowledge required to produce them, a very expensive plant is needed to provide even a moderate range. The dye makers have been increasing both the range and quantity of intermediate available for dye manufacture. This is evident from the fact that useful members of several classes of dyestuffs of known difficulty in manufacture have been put on the market."

Recent Developments in Production.

The paper reports that British Dyes (Ltd.), in addition to the vat dyes reported last month, has brought out some new direct cotton colors. It has always been able to put excellent sulphur colors for cotton on the market, and the latest gives a sky blue of which the cotton dyers were short. Levinstein (Ltd.) is prepared to supply a brand of artificial indigo, Indigo LL, immediately and in any quantity, and also some new and useful direct cotton and acid wool dyes. Direct cotton colors, acid wool dyes, also serviceable in silk dyeing, and the sulphur dyes which have become so important in cotton dyeing are in good supply from many sources, and as the tendency is toward an easing of price, the outlook for the color consumer is declared to be promising. The Times Supplement continues:

The market for natural products is also much easier. There is an abundant supply of logwood in all its forms, and also of the other dyewood extracts. These are chrome mordant colors, and are assisted by the relatively low price and good supply of bichromate of soda. The artificial chrome mordant colors, a most important class in wool dyeing, are almost off the market, and this has a tendency to keep down the price of the chrome salts. Some dyeing matters, such as ripe fruit of various sorts, blackberries, sloes, and plums, which have long had local and domestic uses, have latterly found commercial employment on a small scale. For instance, a London firm has obtained fair results with 5 tons of ripe blackberries gathered in Essex. This is a seasonal trade, however, and may be looked upon as a war-time eccentricity. Generally the position of the color consumer has greatly eased, and this is to the credit of the color suppliers, who have faced a difficult problem with considerable success.

Many Essential Colors Still Lacking.

In the Yorkshire Observer of September 27 an article entitled "Future of the British color industry" states that, while the progress made in building up a British coal-tar color industry has been creditable to all concerned under the limiting industrial conditions of a world-wide war, it must be admitted that they have not been adequate, presupposing an early termination of the war. It adds that many of the most essential bread-and-butter colors of the dyeing trades are still lacking. "A formidable list of these could be

made out," it states, "but it will suffice to mention only a few by way of illustration. Three years have elapsed since the outbreak of war, yet no color of the Diamond Black group of British manufacture has been put upon the market, despite the fact that the consumption of this class of color runs into hundreds of tons per annum in the dyeing of slubbing, wool, fur for hats, and carbonized shoddy." It continues:

The BH type of direct cotton black is probably the most widespread cotton color in the dyehouses of Great Britain, which necessarily means an enormous annual consumption; yet no adequate British production has yet been put on the market. The FF type of direct cotton sky blue is certainly as important to cotton dyers as BH black; yet no British production has appeared on the market. Direct cotton reds and pinks fast to acid are in the same position.

Patent blue, which is absolutely essential to the wool dyer, and is of almost universal consumption, has yet to be put on the market by a British firm.

Rhodamin 6 G, which is of such importance to the calico printing trade for rose-pink illuminations, etc., has yet to be made in Great Britain.

Demand for Old Range of Colors Predicted.

That article also contends that while merchants are accepting what they can get, and the public is reconciled to taking what is offered, it would be the height of folly to think that this acquiescence will continue when hostilities cease. "Nothing is more certain," it says, "than that the public, through the merchants, will demand when peace is restored the old range of colors with guaranties of the pre-war standard of fastness." Its prediction of future development is:

It must always be remembered that the trade has been so busy in supplying the enormous demand for khaki wool and cotton goods that the demand for the ordinary and fancy colors has been very much less than it would have been had not khaki occupied so much of the dyers' time. Immediately the demand for khaki ceases—that it will be at short notice is indicated by the "break" clause in khaki contracts—merchants and manufacturers will at once devote strenuous efforts to recovering their ordinary trade. This will immediately react upon the dyers, who will at once be pressed for a full range of prewar colors, and the dyer who has the largest range will get the most trade.

Unanimity of Dyeing Trade to be Tested.

It is then that the strength of the oft-expressed sentiment, "We have done without the German colors for three years; I don't see why we should not do without them for good," will be really tested. It is then that the unanimity of the dyeing trade, a feature which has never been very prominent, will be tested to the utmost. Assuming that German colors may be bought—a very uncertain factor—if one firm begins buying colors of German origin, then other firms will have to follow as a matter of self-defense in order to retain their connections.

[Articles on the British dyeware situation were published in **COMMERCE REPORTS** for Oct. 7, 1916, Mar. 31 and June 8, 1917.]

OFFICES OF THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE.

DISTRICT OFFICES.

NEW YORK: 734 Customhouse.
BOSTON: 1801 Customhouse.
CHICAGO: 504 Federal Building.
ST. LOUIS: 402 Third National Bank Building.
NEW ORLEANS: 1020 Ulbernia Bank Building.
SAN FRANCISCO: 307 Customhouse.
SEATTLE: 848 Henry Building.

COOPERATIVE OFFICES.

CLEVELAND: Chamber of Commerce.
CINCINNATI: Chamber of Commerce.
CINCINNATI: General Freight Agent, Southern Railway, 96 Ingalls Building.
LOS ANGELES: Chamber of Commerce.
PHILADELPHIA: Chamber of Commerce.
CHATTANOOGA: South American Agent, Southern Railway System.
PORTLAND, OREG.: Chamber of Commerce.
DAYTON: Greater Dayton Association.

CHINESE PRODUCTS EXHIBITED AT FOOCHOW.

[Consul Albert W. Pontius, Foochow, China, Sept. 5.]

An exhibition of agricultural and other products of the Foochow district, which opened here on August 15 and will continue until September 15, is the first of its kind in this locality. The purpose of the merchants and officials who were interested in promoting it was to encourage chiefly the cultivation of waste lands and the adoption of advanced methods of planting. It is held in the South Public Garden, under the auspices of the District Agricultural Progressive Association. The important sections of the exhibit had various features of interest.

Cadastral Representation of District.

The section devoted to husbandry in the Foochow district consists of a cadastral representation of the land. The 49 divisions of the district are presented in excellent miniature, with the principal products grown in those sections. Miniature cattle of different sizes represent the live-stock importance of the various localities. Statistics giving detailed information concerning the several amounts of agricultural wealth are displayed, and there are numerous pamphlets for the guidance of farmers. Old and new farming implements are exhibited. The use of the new implements, and the way to improve methods of cultivation are explained by attendants.

Many kinds of selected fruits and vegetables which are now in season are shown. The chief crops, tea and rice, receive special attention. Modern methods of cutting paddy and hulling the rice are illustrated, and a miniature tea plantation and drying and curing factory are of practical value. Tobacco is seen as an agricultural staple, with six kinds of leaf. Advanced methods of using fertilizers are taught. An agricultural experiment station is operated.

Fostering and Improving Silk Cultivation.

The sericulture section includes silk cocoons, silk skeins, silk manufactures, and wooden appliances for reeling silk. This industry, it is believed, has not received proper attention within recent years, and shipments of raw silk from the port have greatly declined. The officials appear to be deeply interested in fostering and improving its production. Women teachers and students of the Fukien Silk School are in attendance to lecture and give demonstrations. There are also numerous publications in Chinese text referring to the silk industry, from the feeding of the worm on mulberry leaves to the weaving of the cloth from spun silk. Several thousand households in Foochow are reported to be engaged in the feeding of the worms and rearing of cocoons.

Local merchants and officials apparently consider it important to institute practical measures for the restoration, at least in part, of the large tracts of forest growth that have been ruined by reckless exploitation in the past. At the opening of the exhibition the military general laid great stress on the importance of subordinate officials throughout the Province interesting themselves personally in this important task. The section included miniature forests of several kinds of trees, including the bamboo. In order to demonstrate the connection between rainfall and forest growth a constant stream of mistlike rain is cleverly played on a miniature mountain covered with trees and a plain at the foot.

Fishery Products on Native Junk.

A large native junk was especially built for housing the collection of fishery products. Most of the river and coast fish and fishery products are well preserved in glass containers. Fishing junks with nets appear in miniature.

The importance of the salt industry is apparent when it is realized that the production during 1916 aggregated nearly 180,000 tons. This section shows in miniature the salt works, pits, and godowns. A complete set of the tools and devices that are employed and many photographs illustrating the branches of production are of value.

Much credit is due the local native electric-lighting company for its splendid system and original effects which enabled the enterprise to maintain night sessions effectively. The attendance at night ranged from 5,000 to 8,000. The lighting plant had an exhibit of its own, and many modern household devices were shown.

MANUFACTURE OF A UNIFORM TYPE OF SHOE IN FRANCE.

[Commercial Attaché C. W. A. Veditz, Paris.]

Because of the high price of shoes, the French Government issued an ordinance (*arrêté*) that appeared in the *Journal Officiel* of August 14, providing for the manufacture of a uniform type of shoe that could be offered for sale at a comparatively low price. The ordinance provided that the Ministry of War would, so far as possible, supply with leather the shoe manufacturers designated by agreement with the Minister of Commerce. The manufacturers thus selected must undertake to make shoes conforming to models furnished by the Minister of Commerce, and to furnish them to shoe dealers, under the name of "national shoes," at prices fixed by the Minister of Commerce. The shoes shall be marked as "national shoes" and shall be stamped with the maximum selling price to the public, as well as the name of the manufacturer.

On September 14, it was announced that the new shoes would be put on the market on October 1, when dealers would be supplied with an initial stock of 500,000 pairs. The prices have been fixed as follows: Men's shoes, 28 francs per pair; women's shoes, 23 francs; women's low shoes, 19.50 francs; shoes for boys and girls, 18.50 francs; children's shoes, 15.75 francs.

COTTON GINNED IN THE UNITED STATES.

A preliminary report has been issued by the United States Bureau of the Census on the number of bales of cotton ginned from the growth of 1917, compared with the numbers for other years. Counting round as half bales, the number ginned prior to October 18, 1917, was 5,571,624, compared with 7,303,183 bales for the corresponding period in 1916, and 5,708,730 up to the same stage in the 1915 season.

These statistics include 110,632 round bales for 1917; 136,880 for 1916; and 54,783 for 1915. The number of sea-island bales is 43,691 for 1917; 65,040 for 1916; and 40,438 for 1915.

The statistics for this report for 1917 are subject to slight corrections when checked against the individual returns of the ginner, which are being transmitted by mail. The corrected statistics give the quantity of cotton ginned this season prior to September 25 as 2,512,800 bales.

PHILIPPINE TRADE FOR THE FIRST SIX MONTHS OF 1917.

[Commercial Agent J. F. Boomer, Manila, Aug. 17.]

The total foreign trade of the Philippine Islands for the first six months of 1917 was nearly \$8,500,000 in excess of that for the corresponding months of the preceding year. Of this increase nearly \$7,000,000 is credited to imports. It is stated that the total quantity of imports for the 1917 period was less than in 1916, and that the excess in values is made up entirely by the increased prices of imports.

In the case of exports, data are available to show that the quantity of goods exported during the first six months of 1917 was somewhat less than during the same period of the preceding year, and that the increase of \$1,778,000 in value was due to the higher prices.

Total Trade of Each Country With the Islands.

The following table shows the total value of the imports from and the exports to each country during the first six months of 1916 and 1917:

Countries.	January-June, 1916.		January-June, 1917.	
	Imports from.	Exports to.	Imports from.	Exports to.
United States.....	\$10,042,907	\$16,973,294	\$14,096,790	\$24,450,544
Hawaii.....	91,199	79,579	202,962	74,646
Guam.....	59	39,933	454	70,833
United Kingdom.....	1,247,152	8,503,043	1,352,807	3,806,001
Japan.....	2,160,361	2,835,818	3,329,948	3,010,427
French East Indies.....	2,346,485	56,937	2,334,063	83,048
Hongkong.....	50,967	2,259,614	86,436	2,990,912
China.....	1,230,927	1,004,920	1,828,729	951,501
France.....	315,210	1,502,704	365,307	799,917
Spain.....	292,721	1,153,455	377,026	676,492
British East Indies.....	699,146	943,116	699,831	459,176
Australasia.....	551,284	342,304	672,389	552,111
Dutch East Indies.....	591,348	45,140	393,738	129,393
Italy.....	53,535	587,499	41,649	14,000
Switzerland.....	260,093	85,382	229,639	64,906
Netherlands.....	50,981	200,775	52,377	.....
Egypt.....	42	195,796	480	4,697
Siam.....	166,459	14,794	187,957	12,538
Norway.....	123,259	.....	2,857	.....
Japanese China.....	62,699	493	48,933	10,387
Germany.....	31,504	.....	14,233	9
Denmark.....	19,491	3,210	15,967	.....
Belgium.....	8,663	.....	21,760	.....
Sweden.....	5,355	.....	4,253	.....
Canada.....	3,772	214	6,853	544,043
Austria-Hungary.....	2,610	.....	152	.....
Other countries.....	11,042	39,616	43,868	38,333
Total.....	20,525,271	36,966,626	27,012,211	38,744,818

Increased Prices of Iron and Steel—Value of Principal Imports.

It is probable that the prevailing higher prices due to war conditions materially reduced the total quantity of imports for the half year under consideration. The prices of iron and steel products have been steadily advancing since the beginning of the war and the total values of these imports into the Philippines have been as steadily declining. In 1913, for example, the value of the imports of iron and steel products was over \$8,000,000; in 1916, it was less than \$4,000,000. At the same time the prices of some of these products had advanced nearly 100 per cent. Since there was very material further advance during the period under review, it is quite

likely that the quantity imported was less than for the corresponding period of 1916, though the value of the imports for 1917 is slightly greater. What has been said of iron and steel products is true in varying degrees of most other imports.

The following table shows the total value of the principal imports into the islands during the first six months of 1916 and 1917:

Articles.	January-June, 1916.	January-June, 1917.	Articles.	January-June, 1916.	January-June, 1917.
Agricultural implements, and parts of	\$42,503	\$42,194	Motion-picture apparatus, and films for	\$95,568	\$70,634
Carabao		30,813	Other instruments and apparatus	74,690	75,561
Other cattle	137,744	136,531	Iron and steel, and manufactures of	1,684,665	2,062,540
Books, and other printed matter	234,447	200,413	Leather, and manufactures of	447,161	617,983
Brass, and manufactures of	82,453	106,083	Meat products	607,971	553,289
Wheat flour	928,462	929,823	Dairy products	380,886	493,761
Other breadstuffs	236,400	215,677	Musical instruments, and parts of	35,428	36,532
Automobiles, parts of, tires for	663,329	653,305	Illuminating oil	358,655	541,839
Other cars, carriages, etc., and parts of	120,343	100,495	Other oils	526,693	567,182
Cement	146,632	154,599	Paints and pigments	133,212	162,864
Chemicals, drugs, dyes, and medicines	577,269	635,481	Paper, and manufactures of	315,683	843,495
Coal	735,496	665,105	Perfumery and all other toilet preparations	72,981	157,662
Cocoa or cacao	212,725	272,838	Photograph equipment and supplies	56,066	46,131
Coffee	114,057	215,484	Plated ware, gold and silver	37,000	106,252
Copper, and manufactures of	54,371	48,891	Rice	2,421,710	2,370,797
Cotton, and manufactures of	4,246,304	7,523,644	Silk, and manufactures of	407,024	842,424
Diamonds and other precious stones, unset	114,872	177,336	Soap	93,005	209,753
Earthen, stone, and china ware	81,807	123,922	Spirits, wines, and liquors	160,853	148,816
Eggs	201,965	174,555	Sugar and molasses	61,390	28,192
Fibers, vegetable, and manufactures of	261,762	670,368	Tobacco, and manufactures of	200,295	279,222
Fish and fish products	320,655	402,501	Vegetables	763,830	400,503
Fruits and nuts	172,906	198,050	Wax	56,880	58,458
Glass and glassware	118,898	189,991	Wood, and manufactures of	110,855	141,643
Gold, platinum, and silver, manufactures of	32,661	40,327	Wool, and manufactures of	49,141	165,372
India rubber, manufactures of, except automobile tires	180,992	119,918	All other imports	1,631,968	1,776,128
Electrical instruments and apparatus	121,400	165,634	Total	20,525,271	27,012,211

Shipments of Sugar, Hemp, and Copra.

In the case of exports the quantity has in some instances been materially affected by the scarcity of tonnage. The exports of sugar, for instance, were approximately 50 per cent less in quantity for the first half of 1917 than for the corresponding period the preceding year, while the value for the 1917 period was approximately 60 per cent of that for the first six months of 1916. The cause of the shortage in the exports of this commodity was the lack of tonnage. The warehouses are filled with sugar in the producing districts awaiting ships, and, while the crop was somewhat shorter than for the preceding year, owing to various causes, there was no such discrepancy as appears in the shipments abroad. Neither has the lack of markets been the cause of the congestion in the local sugar centers, as prices have ruled high for the period and there has been no lack of demand.

In the case of hemp the quantity exported was considerably less than during the first half of 1916, while the value was greater. A continued shortage in shipping hampered this industry, perhaps more than during the corresponding period of 1916.

The exports of copra for the 1917 half-year period were slightly less than for the same period of 1916 and the value was correspondingly less. The ruling price was a little lower. In the case of coconut oil, on the other hand, there was over 250 per cent more exported in quantity and the total value was nearly 300 per cent greater. The trend now in the coconut industry is to manufacture the oil locally and save freight and other shipping difficulties. It is probable that there will be a steady and rapid decline in the quantity of copra exported and a corresponding increase in the quantity of oil manufactured and shipped from now on.

Notwithstanding the handicap of war conditions, the foreign commerce of the islands is in a most thriving condition. All of the productive forces of the country are healthy, and a restoration of normal conditions abroad would undoubtedly inaugurate a period of unexampled expansion in all phases of Philippine commerce.

Detailed List of Exports.

The quantity and value of the exports during the first six months of 1916 and 1917 follow (1 kilo=2.2 pounds).

Articles.	January-June, 1916		January-June, 1917	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
Beche-de-mer.....kilos.	97,143	\$18,200	46,621	\$9,902
Beeswax.....do.	7,396	3,356	11,435	8,692
Carahao hides.....do.	5,904	1,048	17,519	7,345
Coconut cake.....do.	27,290	2,025	1,033,928	18,174
Coconut oil.....do.	6,214,022	1,437,772	15,530,590	4,013,001
Copper, scrap and old.....do.	214,679	65,037	133,452	54,672
Copra.....do.	30,946,268	3,013,410	29,164,896	2,839,532
Cowhides.....do.	55,902	18,083	89,872	24,696
Elemt.....do.	65,073	14,968	24,180	5,288
Embroideries.....do.		349,030		746,233
Furniture.....do.		4,196		9,180
Glue.....kilos.	41,114	5,831	22,331	3,117
Gum copal.....do.	672,339	63,670	249,966	38,221
Gutta-percha.....do.	18,788	8,142	7,503	3,154
Hats.....number.	553,143	288,142	443,012	263,163
Hemp, knotted.....kilos.	138,619	185,332	116,565	191,727
Cordage.....do.	307,006	70,763	375,383	98,496
Hemp:				
Not graded.....do.	£3,725	2,555		
Graded—				
Grade A.....do.	460,966	212,008	564,942	388,780
Grade B.....do.	748,368	269,552	1,065,710	633,738
Grade C.....do.	1,566,531	434,421	2,052,376	1,051,061
Grade D.....do.	2,682,531	652,750	2,554,377	1,070,492
Grade E.....do.	6,796,537	1,507,983	5,559,082	1,884,168
Grade S1.....do.	1,548,112	316,934	876,440	237,311
Grade S2.....do.	1,943,591	371,971	2,132,797	513,064
Grade S3.....do.	542,691	94,163	1,121,423	259,613
Grade F.....do.	9,931,491	2,175,666	10,788,312	3,062,839
Grade G.....do.	3,422,297	610,587	2,974,663	603,208
Grade H.....do.	1,920,148	338,743	1,811,228	349,886
Grade O.....do.	506,003	30,249	195,869	19,885
Grade T.....do.	662,435	33,804	697,930	47,245
Grade I.....do.	10,450,815	1,960,923	10,014,942	2,256,909
Grade J.....do.	13,314,971	2,314,953	12,708,728	2,422,724
Grade K.....do.	4,253,821	715,186	4,941,301	853,853
Grade L.....do.	12,633,332	1,930,759	10,677,540	1,671,819
Grade M.....do.	6,037,091	852,809	2,978,220	462,537
Grade DL.....do.	1,709,422	258,978	3,542,437	569,125
Grade DM.....do.	897,772	127,823	1,592,762	241,205
Grade DO.....do.	259,326	11,180	185,811	15,188
Grade YO.....do.	384,114	31,648	330,788	40,984
Hemp, prepared with oil.....do.			623,267	167,475
Jewelry.....do.		190		583
Lumber.....cubic meters.	5,728	291,438	11,616	156,771
Magney.....kilos.	8,742,072	923,130	8,064,556	1,228,048
Malt liquors.....liters.	13,637	2,829	55,055	11,950
Metals, metal compositions, and manufactures of.....do.		80,078		34,772
Pacol.....kilos.	83,728	3,644	102,847	6,102

Articles.	January-June, 1916		January-June, 1917	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
Pearls.....		\$5,425		\$1,916
Pearl buttons..... gross.		62,664	163,368	55,914
Pili nuts..... kilos.	31,015	3,565		424
Rice..... do.	21,247	1,304	215,782	17,040
Rubber, crude..... do.	5,000	6,462	11,001	13,468
Sapan wood..... do.	1,435,412	26,476	1,010,790	32,273
Sesame seeds..... do.	82,417	2,656	168,878	18,779
Shark fins.....		8,910		13,745
Shells:				
Black lip pearl..... kilos.	18,565	3,101	5,993	1,122
Golden lip pearl..... do.	147,510	48,433	156,916	68,304
Green snail..... do.	120,210	27,653	43,792	11,244
Tortoise..... do.	585	3,899	225	1,550
Trocha..... do.	209,071	45,898	9,564	2,079
Sisal..... do.	2,404	318	59,207	9,426
Spirits, distilled..... liters.	72,411	8,558	19,545	2,075
Sponges..... kilos.	1,871	8,500	70	30
Sugar, brown..... do.	199,518,586	11,007,938	100,093,157	6,148,528
Cigars..... number.	87,843,526	1,277,634	113,857,357	1,893,082
Cigarettes..... do.	25,631,120	23,544	19,924,009	19,037
Other tobacco..... kilos.	7,751,200	1,258,827	3,785,199	1,089,006
Other articles, n. e. s.:				
Cement.....				394
Cinnamon.....		2,180		103
Desiccated coconut.....		4,327		
Glycerin..... kilos.			10,991	5,400
Indigo.....		170		35,115
Matches.....				150
Orchids.....		5,088		3,411
Rattan.....		6,171		16,711
Shoes.....		3,844		4,070
Soap.....		1,613		3,327
All other domestic exports.....		170,827		114,323
Exports of foreign merchandise.....		546,334		567,087
Total exports.....		38,744,818		30,966,626

Gold bullion to the value of \$691,675 was exported during the first six months of 1917 against \$746,840 worth for the 1916 period.

Nationality of Vessels in the Carrying Trade.

The nationality of the vessels participating in the carrying trade of the Philippines during the first six months of 1916 and 1917, with the total value of the trade, were as follows:

Nationality of vessels.	January-June, 1916.			January-June, 1917.		
	Imports.	Exports.	Total trade.	Imports.	Exports.	Total trade.
Philippine.....	\$835,140	\$915,427	\$1,750,567	\$1,168,504	\$1,320,432	\$2,488,936
American.....	276,037	2,137,932	2,413,969	2,631,492	6,855,338	9,517,330
British.....	11,077,304	21,026,217	32,103,521	13,037,473	14,423,033	27,460,509
Dutch.....	1,066,675	1,699,256	2,765,931	1,057,930	989,467	2,044,397
French.....	345,864	1,205	347,069			
German.....	20,039		20,039	40,769	9	40,778
Spanish.....	1,671,629	1,198,998	2,870,627	524,411	247,162	771,603
Norwegian.....	88,870	1,133,553	1,222,423	389,773	1,611,479	2,001,252
Japanese.....	4,893,701	8,823,314	13,717,015	7,579,212	13,297,395	20,876,657
All other.....	250,003	767	250,770	555,545		555,565
Total.....	20,525,271	36,966,626	57,491,897	27,012,211	38,744,818	65,757,029

Mail for India Lost at Sea.

A dispatch from the American consul at Madras, India, states that the mails sent from London to India on May 31, 1917, were lost at sea. The consul therefore requests that correspondents forward to him copies of letters presumed to have been included in this mail.

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the **Bureau and its district and cooperative offices.** Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and state **opportunity number.** The Bureau does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases. Symbols: * Reported by American consular officers; † Reported by commercial attachés and commercial agents; ‡ Direct inquiries received by the Bureau.

In considering the following "opportunities" special regard should be had to the laws and regulations governing export licenses and trading with the enemy.

Absorbent cotton-----	25685	Engineering supplies-----	25681
Agricultural implements-----	25676	General agency-----	25677
Box straps-----	25679	Groceries-----	25680
Building materials-----	25676	Hardware-----	25676, 25679
Canned goods-----	25680	Hoop iron and hoops-----	25684
Chemical and pharmaceutical products-----	25683	Paper-----	25676, 25681
Confectionery-----	25682	Provisions-----	25680
Dry colors-----	25678	Stationery-----	25683
Electrical apparatus-----	25683	Tools-----	25678, 25679

25676.*—A bishop of an Italian mission in British East Africa desires to receive prices and catalogues from American manufacturers and exporters of agricultural implements, general hardware, tools, building materials, and paper. The bishop is at the head of one of the largest missions in Central Africa, and buys large quantities of above-mentioned goods.

25677.*—A company in Brazil desires to secure an agency for the sale of American products. It mentions no particular line. All business is desired on a commission basis. Correspondence may be in English. References.

25678.*—A firm in Australia desires to purchase dry colors in connection with the printing-ink industry. Quotations should be made f. o. b. American port. Payment will be made by bank letter of credit with order or to be drawn upon sight against shipping documents. Correspondence may be in English. References.

25679.*—A firm in Spain is in the market for large quantities of metal box straps 15 millimeters wide for finishing off fruit boxes. It also wishes to be placed in communication with American manufacturers and exporters of all kinds of hardware and tools. Correspondence should be in Spanish or French. References.

25680.*—A company in Brazil wishes to buy groceries and provisions, canned goods especially. Quotations should be made f. o. b. New York. Payment will be cash against documents. Correspondence may be in French. Catalogues, terms, and prices should be submitted as soon as possible.

25681.*—An agency is desired by a man in Italy for the sale of engineer's and designer's paper, tracing paper, and all kinds of engineering articles. Correspondence may be in English. References.

25682.*—A man in England wishes to secure an agency for the sale of candy, chocolates, peppermint creams, gum drops, all kinds of licorice, and chewing gum. References.

25683.*—An agency is desired by a company in Italy for the sale of chemical and pharmaceutical products, optical and surgical goods, electrical apparatus, and stationery, especially steel pens and pencils. Quotations may be made f. o. b. New York. Payment will be made in United States currency against documents. Correspondence may be in English. References.

25684.*—A company in India wishes to purchase hoop iron $\frac{1}{2}$ inch by 24 G and steel balling hoops 1 inch by 16 G, British wire gauge. Payment will be made by cash against documents at destination. Correspondence may be in English. References.

25685.*—A man in Portugal desires to buy absorbent cotton. Quotations should be made f. o. b. American port. Credit will be opened in New York for payment. Correspondence may be in English. References.

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PRINCETON, N. J.

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No. 252 Washington, D. C., Saturday, October 27 1917

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MAXIMUM ISSUE OF NOTES BY BANK OF FRANCE.

A decree published in the Journal Officiel of September 11, 1917, stated that the maximum issue of notes of the Bank of France and its branch offices, provisionally fixed at 21,000,000,000 francs by the decree of February 15, 1917, has been raised to 24,000,000,000 francs. It is also stated that the maximum issue of notes of the Bank of Algeria and its branch offices, provisionally fixed at 550,000,000 francs by the decree of July 27, 1917, has been increased to 600,000,000 francs.

PRELIMINARY REPORT ON NIZHNI NOVGOROD FAIR.

[Consul David B. Macgowan, Moscow, Russia, Aug. 25.]

The semicentennial Nizhni Novgorod fair is the quietest ever known. Goods are scarce, but as there are no available stocks elsewhere buyers are patiently waiting in the hope that shipments will arrive before the closing date. Many hotels are filled; others are half filled. Owing to the retention of the prohibitions of the shipment of goods from one Government to another, purchasers of goods have to ask for permits before shipping them to destination.

Felt boots were offered in small quantities, with prices 400 per cent above those of 1916. Goods were snapped up regardless of price and sales were not infrequently made by speculators at greatly enhanced prices. Wool suitable for making felt boots has brought 120 rubles per pood (36.11 pounds), as compared with 54 rubles in 1916. The price, 3.30 rubles per pound, is higher than was ever before known at the fair. Cow's wool is selling for 1.38 rubles per pound.

Sheepskins sold up to 60 rubles apiece, few being offered. No Arzamas furs were offered, and as they are one of the principal articles of trade at the fair a committee was sent to Arzamas to make inquiries. Squirrel skins, dressed, brought prices hitherto undreamed

of. A sewed piece that cost 250 rubles last year now sells for 600 rubles. Kangaroo and other foreign furs have not been in evidence.

Porcelain, chinaware, crockery, and the like, which are usually the last things to be sold, have all disappeared. Prices were 100 per cent above 1916 and 600 per cent above 1914.

Purchasers continue to arrive, a considerable number having just reached Nishni Novgorod from Siberia.

DECREASED PRODUCTION IN RUSSIAN METAL WORKS.

[Orsen N. Nielsen, chief clerk, American consulate general, Moscow, Aug. 31.]

On account of enormously increased costs, decreased production is looked for in the metal works of the Moscow region. This conclusion was reached by the Association of Factory and Works Owners of the Moscow industrial district, after an intensive study of production costs in the years 1916 and 1917. For the purpose of comparing costs in the two years, April was taken as a representative month of 1917. One-twelfth of the 1916 expenses were then computed and inspection made of the two sets of figures. In the 29 factories that furnished data production costs in 1917 increased over costs of 1916 by 40 per cent. In some cases wages for labor during April, 1917, were double the average monthly wage in 1916.

Last year's production costs amounted to 31,238,000 rubles. With the 40 per cent increase this year's figure will be approximately 43,700,000 rubles. In other words, the factories will have to bear an additional expenditure of about 12,000,000 rubles. As the number of workmen in these 29 factories is 18,000, the additional money needed comes to 667 rubles per capita. Presuming that these figures fairly represent the situation in the entire Moscow industrial region (and the association believes they do), 125,000,000 rubles of additional capital will be required in the territory to meet the increased costs. It is the opinion of the association that this sum can not be met by the factory owners and that production will be decreased.

GOVERNMENT AID TO CHILEAN NITRATE PRODUCERS.

[Consul General Leo J. Keena, Valparaiso, Sept. 25.]

By a law of the Chilian Congress, promulgated September 21, 1917, the President of the Republic is authorized for a period of three years to aid the producers of nitrate by making loans from the national treasury to an amount not exceeding \$4 in Chilean currency, approximately \$1.20 in American money, on each 46 kilos of nitrate sacked and ready for shipment at tidewater, and to a sum not exceeding \$3 in Chilean money, approximately \$0.90 in American currency, on the same unit of measure relating to those quantities lying in bulk at the nitrate works. The aggregate of the loans made shall not exceed a sum of money corresponding to 8,000,000 metric quintals of nitrate. Those producers who seek to take advantage of the governmental assistance thus afforded must agree to maintain their plants in operation. The Government is secured in the loans made by constituting the nitrate in question a pledge for the meeting of the obligations of the producers when they become due and payable to the Government.

THE SILK SCHOOLS OF CHINA.

"It is not generally known," says D. E. Douty, writing of the progress of sericulture training in China in the October number of *Silk*, "that special education in sericulture in China was introduced in some sections 25 years ago and that nearly every raw-silk producing center has now a fairly well organized and equipped sericultural school or agricultural school having a sericultural department." Mr. Douty states that the development of agricultural education and the improvement of methods in Japan were probably responsible for the new departure in China, and then continues:

In Kwangtung Province, about 3 miles down the Pearl River from Canton, there is an agricultural experiment station which has at times given instruction in sericulture. The equipment is very meager; only the most primitive types of reeling machines are used and very limited facilities are available for the production of eggs and the rearing of worms. The Canton Christian College has a well-organized agricultural department, and is planning to put in a department for teaching modern methods of sericulture at an early date.

At Foochow, on the Min River, in Fukien Province, there is an agricultural college teaching sericulture and a sericultural school for boys. An annex to the latter school is being established for the teaching of girls. The surrounding district produces several million dollars' worth of cocoons, but none of them are reeled for export. The raw silk is consumed entirely by the domestic weavers. The Min Valley is admirably adapted to the production of cocoons, but it is necessary to introduce modern methods.

At Hangchow there are two excellent sericultural schools. On the shore of West Lake, opposite the city, is a provincial school for boys organized about 20 years ago under the direction of a Japanese teacher. The courses of study and practice cover a period of three years, and more than a hundred pupils are always in attendance. Within the city of Hangchow there is an excellently organized and equipped sericultural school for girls which is just entering on its second year. It is under the direction of Miss Woo Kyla-Ing, a very keen, alert young woman with marked executive ability.

At Soochow, 40 miles west of Shanghai, there is an agricultural college for boys. It has a sericultural department in which cocoon-raising and reeling are taught, and in which some interesting investigations upon cross-breeding and mulberry grafting are being carried on. At a village 12 miles farther west is an excellent sericultural school for girls which has been in operation eight years. It has over 100 students, and gives a three years' course that includes elementary physics, chemistry, and botany.

At Wuchang, 700 miles up the Yangtze River from Shanghai, is a sericultural school for boys. It has not a large number of students, and is housed in unsatisfactory buildings, but it is teaching the fundamental elements of modern sericulture.

INCREASED EXPORTS FROM HALIFAX TO UNITED STATES.

[Consul General Evan E. Young, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada, Oct. 19.]

The declared exports from the Halifax consular district to the United States and Porto Rico for the nine months ended September 30, 1917, show a marked increase in quantity and value as compared with the corresponding period in 1916. Omitting special shipments of gold bullion, the total value of the declared exports for the nine months amounted in value to \$3,157,379, compared with \$1,816,904 during the corresponding period of 1916.

While increases in quantity and value occur in nearly all of the principal articles of export, shipments of fish and lumber show the more marked increases.

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RESUMPTION OF FRENCH SUGAR PRODUCTION.

[Commercial Attaché C. W. A. Veditz, Paris.]

In view of the high price and the shortage of sugar in France, which necessitated the issuance of sugar cards some six months ago, considerable interest attaches to the fact that in the French territory recently evacuated by the enemy there are more than 40 sugar manufacturing, not including those which, although no longer in territory held by the enemy, are too near the army front to make their operation possible. A recent semiofficial report covers conditions discovered in 37 establishments, of which 2 were in the Oise Department, 7 in the Aisne Department, 6 in the Pas-de-Calais, and 22 in the Somme Department.

The repair and the resumption of productive operations in these works is, of course, tied up with the question of the possibility of cultivating the soil in the vicinity and of raising a sufficient crop of sugar beets to provide the necessary material for making sugar. It was therefore necessary to consider both the agricultural and the industrial point of view in studying the question of renewed sugar production in these regions.

Conditions Between Soissons and Nesles-Athies.

In the zone between Soissons and the neighborhood of Nesles-Athies the sugar factories were found to be relatively little damaged, requiring but slight repairs, and therefore readily able to resume operations. The soil, moreover, was generally fit for cultivation, and at several points farm tractors and agricultural machinery furnished by the Ministry of Agriculture were at work. But the residences of the population had suffered great damage; many houses had damaged roofs and walls and others were largely destroyed by the fire. Frequently doors, windows, flooring, and furniture were lacking or completely destroyed.

The agricultural machinery and tools previously in use were, whenever any remained, damaged and out of repair. In the courtyard of the sugar works at Athies (Somme) the investigators found a collection of plows, mowers, thrashers, etc., which had previously served for farming in the immediate neighborhood and which had apparently been brought there by the Germans for repair. As in most of the industrial establishments in the recovered area, the Germans had removed from the sugar works all machinery of copper and bronze. They carried off parts of steam engines, the copper parts of evaporating vats, of cooking reservoirs, electrical machinery, and dynamos. They also removed most of the machine tools in the repair shops—lathes, planing machines, etc. As a rule, moreover, the chimneys had been mined, and in falling had demolished part of the plants.

Great Devastation in Arras-Peronne Section.

The region comprising Arras, Bapaume, Albert, Foucaucourt, and Peronne is the most completely devastated. Fields and farms are cut up by trenches, shell explosions, and mines and covered with zigzag lines of barbed-wire fences and obstructions. On the hillsides are numerous subterranean shelters dug by the enemy. In many of the fields the lower strata of the soil have been brought to the top, and the upper arable layers are often invisible. Throughout large

areas the trees that bordered the roads and surrounded the houses have been cut down by the enemy. Others are shattered or burned, leaving only charred, broken trunks. The enemy also exploded mines at the more important road crossings, leaving funnel-like holes 60 to 80 feet in diameter and 20 to 30 feet deep. Most of these holes, however, were promptly filled with earth, bricks, and stones.

In this region entire villages have been so completely destroyed that their sites are almost indeterminable—among them Estrées-Damécourt, Sailly-Sallisel, Le Sars, and Coucellette. In other villages (Villers-Carbonel, Brie-sur-Somme) of the houses there remain only parts of the walls, with partly unsupported roofs. Next to nothing is left of Peronne, Chauny, Bapaume, and other towns that have figured in the official communiqués. To level and clean up the soil in these regions will alone require considerable labor, and unexploded shells and grenades make this task precarious. Many of the industrial establishments are totally destroyed, and in the others all copper and bronze and all machine tools have been removed by the enemy.

Conditions Better North of Arras.

In the region west and northwest of Arras the fields have suffered less damage and can be cultivated within a short time. The factories at Bihucourt and Dainville can be restored and repaired. Some of the others have been destroyed by mines. Twelve sugar manufactories are reported as admitting readily of sufficient repairs to make their operation possible within a relatively short time. Even here, however, considerable work must be done before the neighboring farms can again be cultivated.

Pending the reconstruction of homes, temporary shelters will be required for both the farming laborers and the industrial employees. As draft animals will be scarce the use of tractors will be necessary on as large a scale as possible. The work of sorting and classifying such machinery, tools, and building material as can still be used will be undertaken promptly and it is believed will facilitate the resumption of productive operation, although of course it will be necessary to obtain elsewhere in France, or from abroad, much of the manufacturing equipment indispensable for the normal operation of the sugar manufactories, as of other industrial plants, in these regions.

SHORTAGE OF TOKEN MONEY IN FRANCE.

[Commercial Attaché C. W. A. Veditz, Paris.]

In many French cities small metallic currency has become scarce, particularly 1 and 2 sou copper pieces; and it is not unlikely that nickel coins of the value of 1, 2, and 5 sous will soon be put into circulation by the mint. In many French towns the local chambers of commerce have been authorized to issue paper money in denominations of 2 francs, 1 franc, 50 centimes, and even of 25 and 10 centimes. The shortage of the divisional metallic currency is said to be largely attributable to hoarding, for the quantities issued by the mint since the outbreak of the war have been unusually large. On June 30, 1917, there were outstanding 319,165,938 silver denominational coins, representing a total value of 313,184,301 francs; 99,469,811 copper coins, representing 6,695,047 francs; and 1,579,940 nickel coins, representing 394,389 francs.

BULGARIAN BANKS PREPARE FOR POSTWAR TRADE.

[From the Frankfurter Zeitung, of Sept. 7.]

The Bulgarian business world is preparing for the commercial boom which is to follow the war. This preparation is particularly marked in the Donau district, where extensive use is to be made of newly developed river water power.

A few days ago a company was formed in Rustschuk, under the auspices of the Bulgarian Donau-Bank. Its capital of 5,000,000 leva was mostly subscribed by Bulgarian financiers. The purpose of this company is to finance and otherwise promote trade. The directorate of the company consists exclusively of Rustschuk business men.

It is reported that the old and well-known banking house of Meyer & Attalion (Rustschuk) is to be taken over by a new joint-stock company whose capitalization will be 20,000,000 leva. The L nder Bank of Vienna is said to be the chief supporter of this reorganization scheme. If this report is true, this will be the largest private bank in Bulgaria.

The Banque Balkanique which is closely related to the Wiener Bank-Verein, has just raised its capital from 10,000,000 to 15,000,000 leva. It is understood that this additional capital will represent a better financing of certain tobacco transactions. Other banking houses, including the Herzog-Kenzern, the Ungarische Bank, und Handels-Aktiengesellschaft, as well as the Wiener Bank-Verein, have formed a stock company for the purpose of financing other Bulgarian tobacco trade.

CROPS IN THE PUERTO CABELLO DISTRICT.

[Consul Frank Anderson Henry, Puerto Cabello, Venezuela, Sept. 29.]

Reports from all parts of the Puerto Cabello district indicate an unusually large production of food crops this year. This is no doubt largely due to the efforts of the Venezuelan Government to meet the world situation.

The President of the State of Lara reports that the production of maize has been approximately 800,000 bushels. About 12,000 tons of carrots and similar crops have been raised and large increases in the production of rice and wheat have been noted. The Government of the State has made especial attempts to stimulate wheat growing and has distributed seeds of good quality in the principal producing sections. The prospects for the second harvest this year are most encouraging.

Information from other States, while less precise, indicates that the 1917 yield of crops for local consumption will be unusually large.

ALGERIAN WINES REQUISITIONED FOR THE ARMY.

[Consul Arthur C. Frost, Algiers, Sept. 15.]

In conformity with the instructions of the Minister of General Supplies, one-third of the wine crop of Algeria has been requisitioned for military purposes. Each wine producer is required to turn one-third of his vintage into table wine for army consumption. The wine furnished must be of good quality and equal at least to the average quality of each producer's vintage.

SOUTH AMERICA'S IMPORTS OF RUBBER GOODS.

The results of a recent statistical study of the imports of rubber goods into certain of the South American Republics made by the Research Division of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce discloses a falling off in the imports of such goods into Argentina, Brazil, and Chile. No comparison is possible for Uruguay because of a change in the form of the published returns. For all four countries details are lacking for 1915, totals only being given in most instances.

Notwithstanding this meagerness of detail, much interesting material is presented in the tables that follow. In examining them it should be borne in mind that with the exception of Brazil the values are what are known as "official values," i. e., goods are valued according to official rates prescribed in a "valuation tariff."

Argentina's Purchases in 1913 and 1915.

In Argentina the valuation tariff now in use was adopted in 1906; and while the figures presented below trace the growth or decline of that Republic's imports of rubber goods as to quantity, the values given do not represent the present market values of the articles listed. For 1913 and 1915 (the latest year for which statistics are at hand) Argentina's imports of rubber goods of various kinds amounted to (kilo=2.2046 pounds):

Articles and countries.	Quantity.	Value.	Articles and countries.	Quantity.	Value.
Rubber footwear:			Waterproof cloaks or capes:		
Germany.....kilos..	16,565	\$19,981	Germany.....number..	1,938	\$10,976
Austria-Hungary.....do..	7,347	8,863	Austria-Hungary.....do..	12	69
United States.....do..	11,671	14,078	Belgium.....do..	327	1,893
France.....do..	8,650	10,435	Spain.....do..	119	400
United Kingdom.....do..	2,114	2,550	United States.....do..	491	2,739
Switzerland.....do..	108	130	France.....do..	2,185	11,169
			Italy.....do..	293	1,696
Total, 1913.....do..	46,455	56,037	United Kingdom.....do..	18,908	103,246
Total, 1915.....do..	15,703	18,941	Switzerland.....do..	55	318
Rubber tubing:			Total, 1913.....do..	24,328	132,507
Germany.....do..	141,015	90,727	Total, 1915.....do..	6,650	34,509
Austria-Hungary.....do..	4,403	2,609			
Belgium.....do..	4,415	2,985	Elastic cloth, n. e. s.:		
Spain.....do..	6,074	3,580	Germany.....kilos..	8,605	29,233
United States.....do..	96,388	57,346	Austria-Hungary.....do..	1,734	6,406
France.....do..	42,846	25,504	Belgium.....do..	234	878
Italy.....do..	58,904	34,468	Spain.....do..	226	654
Netherlands.....do..	637	369	United States.....do..	1,354	4,356
United Kingdom.....do..	199,233	125,039	France.....do..	5,992	23,081
Sweden.....do..	1,212	702	Italy.....do..	9,111	38,559
			United Kingdom.....do..	13,874	54,577
Total, 1913.....do..	555,127	343,329	Switzerland.....do..	77	372
Total, 1915.....do..	164,743	103,186			
			Total, 1913.....do..	41,207	158,114
Manufactures of gutta-percha or rubber, n. e. s.:			Total, 1915.....do..	19,150	77,754
Africa.....packages..	1	43			
Germany.....do..	846	115,696	Rubber cloth for footwear:		
Austria-Hungary.....do..	58	6,493	Germany.....kilos..	12,598	26,134
Belgium.....do..	22	2,291	Austria-Hungary.....do..	2,441	5,265
Spain.....do..	19	5,110	Spain.....do..	2,339	4,719
United States.....do..	244	29,896	France.....do..	535	1,268
France.....do..	491	56,303	Italy.....do..	7,831	20,220
Italy.....do..	280	33,672	United Kingdom.....do..	6,675	12,956
Japan.....do..	3	266	Switzerland.....do..	8,178	16,486
Netherlands.....do..	5	279			
United Kingdom.....do..	2,101	215,849	Total, 1913.....do..	40,597	87,477
Sweden.....do..	27	2,342	Total, 1915.....do..	24,651	53,131
Turkey.....do..	1	4			
Uruguay.....do..	4	169	Waterproof cloth:		
			Germany.....do..	12,936	13,020
Total, 1913.....do..	4,102	468,412	Belgium.....do..	4,777	2,239
Total, 1915.....do..	193,233	193,233	United States.....do..	964	1,039
			France.....do..	10,106	10,716
			Italy.....do..	4,080	2,769

Articles and countries.	Quantity.	Value.	Articles and countries.	Quantity.	Value.
Waterproof cloth—Continued.			Elastic bands of silk or mixed fibers—Continued.		
Netherlands.....kilos.	843	\$651	France.....kilos.	4,188	\$8,897
United Kingdom.....do.	241,530	264,719	Italy.....do.	845	1,737
Switzerland.....do.	250	193	United Kingdom.....do.	1,506	3,193
Total, 1913.....do.	275,486	295,406	Total, 1913.....do.	10,872	22,379
Total, 1915.....do.	142,434	159,414	Total, 1915.....do. pairs.	6,932	13,598
Rubber erasers:			Rubber tires for wheels of automobiles, coaches, and carriages:		
Germany.....do.	16,623	24,062	Germany.....kilos.	67,029	93,186
Austria-Hungary.....do.	2,941	4,258	Belgium.....do.	1,173	1,698
Belgium.....do.	39	56	Spain.....do.	1,400	2,028
United States.....do.	2,137	3,094	United States.....do.	15,995	23,152
France.....do.	645	933	France.....do.	9,465	13,706
Italy.....do.	4,156	6,016	Italy.....do.	13,396	19,391
Netherlands.....do.	223	323	United Kingdom.....do.	63,134	92,352
United Kingdom.....do.	3,095	4,480	Total, 1913.....do.	171,592	245,544
Total, 1913.....do.	29,859	43,221	Total, 1915.....do.	49,143	71,180
Total, 1915.....do.	14,127	20,448	Rubber soles and heels:		
Elastic bands of cotton:			Germany.....do.	10,511	10,143
Germany.....doz. pairs.	7,588	3,661	Austria-Hungary.....do.	7,451	7,196
United States.....do.	12,130	5,853	United States.....do.	2,097	1,906
France.....do.	3,762	1,815	France.....do.	5,647	5,449
Italy.....do.	3,948	1,905	Netherlands.....do.	2,116	2,042
United Kingdom.....do.	1,582	763	United Kingdom.....do.	25,237	24,354
Total, 1913.....do.	29,010	13,997	Russia.....do.	333	331
Total, 1915.....do.	27,085	13,044	Switzerland.....do.	318	307
Elastic bands of silk or mixed fibers:			Total, 1913.....do.	53,650	51,772
Germany.....kilos.	746	1,455	Total, 1915.....do.	9,265	8,941
Austria-Hungary.....do.	1	4			
United States.....do.	3,586	7,093			

Information Incomplete as to Brazil's Imports.

Brazil's statistics show the "frontier value" of the articles imported. This includes their cost in the country of origin and freight and other charges incurred until the goods are delivered free on board in the Brazilian port of destination. Duties and other subsequent charges are not included.

Complete comparative data are not available, no "total" being given for the separate items in 1913 and nothing but the "total" for 1915. As disclosed by published returns Brazil's imports of rubber goods in the two years named, with the countries of origin, were:

Articles and countries.	Kilos.	Value.	Articles and countries.	Kilos.	Value.
Rubber tires and inner tubes for automobiles:			Total rubber manufactures:		
Germany.....	111,379	\$161,152	Germany.....	456,720	\$543,237
France.....	272,434	374,343	France.....	319,821	471,977
Italy.....	46,393	59,339	United Kingdom.....	188,832	353,472
Uruguay.....	256	339	United States.....	87,961	181,932
Total, 1913 ^a			Portugal.....	149	262
Total, 1915.....	438,322	577,717	Belgium.....	48,941	58,916
Rubber tubing:			Italy.....	73,981	133,155
Germany.....	49,148	52,496	Uruguay.....	3,726	4,427
France.....	2,186	3,105	Austria-Hungary.....	5,759	17,672
Total, 1913 ^a			Switzerland.....	59	250
Total, 1915.....	56,474	71,850	Argentina.....	1,471	4,922
Manufactures of rubber not specified:			Netherlands.....	345	1,161
Germany.....	296,193	329,589	Sweden.....	126	585
France.....	45,201	91,244	Russia.....	2,822	2,083
Italy.....	20,688	73,816	Japan.....		168,497
Uruguay.....	3,726	4,088	British India.....	102	80
Austria-Hungary.....	5,759	17,672	Paraguay.....	8	12
Argentina.....	1,471	4,923	Other countries.....	157	357
Total, 1913 ^a			Total, 1913.....	1,189,500	1,938,197
Total, 1915.....	129,504	263,725	Total, 1915.....	600,894	963,806

^a Items given do not constitute total trade in articles named.

Other rubber articles, not separately shown in 1913, were imported by Brazil during 1915 as follows: Toys, 1,809 kilos, value \$5,260; footwear, 7,356 kilos, value \$10,526; sheet rubber, 19,860 kilos, value \$14,072; solid rubber tires, 43,069 kilos, value \$31,656.

Details of Chile's Trade.

Under the new customs tariff of Chile, in effect May 10, 1916, declared values are recorded. Previous to that time—hence at the dates covered by the table below—the values of imported goods were based on an official valuation tariff prescribed by the President of Chile and issued annually for the succeeding year. The Republic's trade in rubber manufactures is shown in considerable detail, the imports for 1913 and 1915 by articles and countries of origin having been:

Articles and countries.	1913		1915	
	Kilos.	Value.	Kilos.	Value.
Rubber erasers:				
United Kingdom.....	1,006	\$2,203	364	\$797
Germany.....	3,177	6,958	622	1,362
France.....	96	210	30	66
Belgium.....	9	20		
Italy.....	354	775	53	116
Denmark.....			45	57
Netherlands.....			26	99
United States.....	731	1,601	822	1,900
Argentina.....			48	105
Total.....	5,373	11,767	2,010	4,402
Rubber prepared for dentists:				
United Kingdom.....			2	12
France.....			9	53
Panama.....			20	117
United States.....			65	360
Total.....			96	561
Tires of rubber:				
United Kingdom.....	7,961	21,875	7,701	13,916
Germany.....	11,127	26,234	206	580
France.....	7,575	20,638	3,400	5,108
Belgium.....	83	242		
Italy.....	202	445	598	967
Austria-Hungary.....			107	156
Denmark.....			1,543	2,363
Spain.....	76	222		
Portugal.....	212	619		
United States.....	26,422	54,172	44,874	70,781
Argentina.....	449	1,158	521	867
Total.....	64,107	125,604	58,949	94,538
Rubber in plates, indurated or vulcanised:				
United Kingdom.....	61	89	100	146
Germany.....	2,305	3,365	186	272
Denmark.....			133	194
United States.....	309	451	499	729
Argentina.....	5	7		
Total.....	2,680	3,913	918	1,340
Rubber, crude or in sheets:				
United Kingdom.....	8,882	6,484	1,372	637
Germany.....	4,973	3,630	254	179
France.....	742	469	279	133
Belgium.....	185	135		
Italy.....	30	4		
Spain.....			25	4
Netherlands.....			94	69
United States.....	3,472	2,535	4,262	2,774
Peru.....	90	13	225	33
Bolivia.....			190	28
Argentina.....			52	38
Total.....	18,374	13,270	6,753	3,833

Articles and countries.	1913		1915	
	Kilos.	Value.	Kilos.	Value.
Rubber, in sheets, containing textiles:				
United Kingdom.....	20,425	\$8,046	6,830	\$2,992
Germany.....	24,645	10,795	1,235	541
France.....	40	18	110	48
Belgium.....	4,975	2,179	160	70
Denmark.....			160	70
Spain.....	240	105		
United States.....	8,790	3,850	6,090	2,667
Total.....	59,115	25,892	14,585	6,388
Rubber stoppers for bottles or flasks:				
United Kingdom.....			22	96
Germany.....	75	329	23	101
France.....			4	18
United States.....			109	477
Total.....	75	329	155	692
Rubber prepared for packing:				
United Kingdom.....			816	506
United States.....			432	315
Total.....			1,248	911
Elastic bands for papers:				
United Kingdom.....	456	1,419	192	561
Germany.....	494	1,442	207	604
France.....	24	70	28	82
Belgium.....	9	26		
Italy.....	11	32		
Netherlands.....			8	23
Denmark.....			2	6
Panama.....			17	50
United States.....	151	441	508	1,483
Argentina.....			154	450
Total.....	1,175	3,431	1,116	3,259
Mouthpieces of rubber, celluloid, or cork for cigars and cigarettes:				
Germany.....	354	2,079	69	492
France.....	58	323		
Netherlands.....			1	5
Total.....	412	2,402	70	497
Rubber pipes and hose:				
United Kingdom.....	26,175	14,020	3,962	2,160
Germany.....	42,890	22,238	9,922	6,263
France.....	4,072	2,082	2,075	1,562
Belgium.....	264	137		
Italy.....	21	45		
Spain.....	29	15		
Netherlands.....			755	386
Denmark.....			112	61
Norway.....			6	13
United States.....	24,639	12,575	21,816	11,438
Total.....	98,090	51,112	39,548	21,883
Elastic for bands, girdles, etc.:				
United Kingdom.....	96	210	153	335
Germany.....	1,418	3,105	557	1,286
France.....	171	374	1,132	2,479
Belgium.....			22	48
Italy.....	83	182	1,151	2,521
United States.....			44	96
Total.....	1,768	3,872	3,089	6,765
Elastics for footwear:				
United Kingdom.....	1,460	3,197	153	335
Germany.....	2,464	5,896	557	1,286
France.....	2,318	5,076	1,132	2,479
Belgium.....	430	920	22	48
Italy.....	1,037	2,271	1,151	2,521
United States.....			44	96
Total.....	7,699	16,861	3,089	6,765

Articles and countries.	1913		1915	
	Kilos.	Value.	Kilos.	Value.
Gummed textiles for linings of footwear:				
United Kingdom	10,596	\$5,801	4,936	\$2,702
Germany	6,068	3,322		
France	4,676	2,560		
Belgium	1,162	636		
Italy	3,422	1,874	2,450	1,341
Denmark			126	69
United States	292	160	624	342
Total	26,216	14,353	8,136	4,454
Waterproof clothing, made up:				
United Kingdom	793	2,694	1,010	3,687
Germany	880	1,314	92	248
France	141	515	52	190
Denmark			41	40
Italy	14	51		
United States	848	1,270	4	15
Argentina			16	58
Total	1,636	6,044	1,195	4,826
Waterproof clothing, not made up:				
United Kingdom	2,473	9,026	489	1,602
Germany	1,449	5,289		
France	146	543	25	91
Italy	160	581		
United States	4	15	29	106
Total	4,232	15,447	493	1,799
Cloth waterproofed with rubber or gum:				
United Kingdom	9,072	11,589	2,006	2,678
Germany	4,054	5,179	190	243
France	1,592	2,034	260	447
Italy			122	456
United States	20	26	1,520	1,942
Argentina	30	38	1,280	1,635
Total	14,768	18,866	5,558	7,100
Tires of rubber:				
United Kingdom	7,961	21,875	7,701	13,916
Germany	11,127	28,214	205	580
France	7,575	20,636	3,400	5,108
Belgium	83	242		
Italy	202	445	598	937
Spain	76	222		
Portugal	212	619		
Austria-Hungary			107	156
Denmark			1,543	2,253
United States	36,422	54,172	44,874	70,781
Argentina	449	1,158	521	857
Total	64,107	125,604	58,949	98,588
Rubber dress shields:				
United Kingdom	107	312	105	307
Germany	608	1,775	69	201
France	657	1,018	150	438
United States			12	35
Total	1,372	4,006	336	981
Rubber rain shoes:				
United Kingdom	5,144	7,510	719	1,050
Germany	22,370	32,660	713	1,041
France	2,277	3,324	69	101
Belgium	242	353		
Denmark			50	73
Japan			5	7
United States	14,816	21,675	9,130	13,330
Argentina			47	69
Total	44,879	65,521	10,733	15,670
Manufactures of gum, gutta-percha, and rubber, n. e. s.:				
United Kingdom	11,653	24,833	6,780	12,868
Germany	31,704	42,731	2,351	4,219
France	9,485	16,601	2,782	4,812
Belgium	4	9	358	492
Italy	546	946	64	153

Articles and countries.	1913		1915	
	Kilos.	Value.	Kilos.	Value.
Manufactures of gum, gutta-percha, and rubber, n. e. s.—Contd.				
Spain.....	33	\$24		
Portugal.....	1	2		
Japan.....	12	9		
Sweden.....			1	\$1
Netherlands.....			9	22
Denmark.....			17	45
Panama.....			170	254
United States.....	3,444	5,935	1,464	3,012
Argentina.....	31	85	237	557
Total.....	56,939	90,164	16,182	27,466

Uruguayan Statistics Issued in Different Forms.

The Uruguayan published statistics for 1913 do not give the imports of rubber goods in detail, and for this reason the years 1911 and 1915 are used in the table below instead of 1913 and 1915. But even employing these two years does not make comparison possible, for the statistics were issued in different forms. The values are "official" values based on a valuation tariff.

Uruguay's purchases of foreign rubber goods in 1911 and 1915, by articles and countries of origin, were (meter=1.09 yards):

Articles and countries.	Quantity.	Value.	Articles and countries.	Quantity.	Value.
1911.			1911.		
Elastics for footwear:			Rubber manufactures, n. e. s.:		
Cotton—			Germany.....		\$11,985
Germany.....meters..	6,355	\$2,102	Argentina.....		780
Argentina.....do.....	2,146	710	Belgium.....		9,346
Belgium.....do.....	10,661	3,528	Spain.....		99
France.....do.....	1,678	535	United States.....		4,567
Italy.....do.....	9,108	3,014	France.....		7,511
United Kingdom.....do.....	4,685	1,550	Italy.....		4,310
Total.....do.....	34,633	11,460	United Kingdom.....		18,235
Silk—			Total.....		56,883
Germany.....do.....	1,946	1,006	1915.		
Argentina.....do.....	1,890	977	Mouthpieces of glass, rubber, or		
Belgium.....do.....	144	74	other materials for smoking:		
France.....do.....	378	195	Germany.....dozen..	100	93
Italy.....do.....	5,058	2,615	Argentina.....do.....	60	
Total.....do.....	9,416	4,668	Total.....do.....	100	132
Mixed textiles—			Rubber globes, with or without		
Italy.....do.....	290	150	mouthpieces:		
Total.....do.....	290	150	France.....gross..	19	35
Waterproof cloth:			Total.....do.....	19	35
Germany.....do.....	575	523	Rubber balls:		
Argentina.....do.....	583	511	Germany.....dozen..	40	25
Belgium.....do.....	142	125	United States.....do.....	39	24
France.....do.....	195	199	France.....do.....	683	424
United Kingdom.....do.....	14,331	13,175	United Kingdom.....do.....	172	107
Total.....do.....	15,286	14,533	Italy.....do.....	1,390	863
Rubber sheets:			Total.....do.....	2,324	1,442
Argentina.....kilos..	100	134	Shields of rubber and cotton:		
Belgium.....do.....	701	943	United States.....doz. pairs..	246	153
United States.....do.....	25	34	France.....do.....	523	325
France.....do.....	567	762	United Kingdom.....do.....	490	304
Italy.....do.....	110	148	Total.....do.....	1,259	782
United Kingdom.....do.....	616	828	Shields of rubber and silk:		
Total.....do.....	2,119	2,850	Argentina.....doz. pairs..	94	26
Rubber for match boxes:			United States.....do.....	36	37
France.....do.....	1,175	1,215	France.....do.....	43	44
Italy.....do.....	96	99	United Kingdom.....do.....	142	147
Total.....do.....	1,271	1,314	Total.....do.....	245	253

Articles and countries.	Quantity.	Value.	Articles and countries.	Quantity.	Value.
1915.			1915.		
Waterproof cloth with rubber on one or both sides, or between two cloths, of 1 meter in width:			Rubber bands for billiard tables:		
Germany.....meters..	45	\$42	Italy.....kilos..	80	\$99
Argentina.....do.....	45	45	Total.....do.....	80	99
Belgium.....do.....	135	109	Elastic of wool or wool and cotton, mixed, etc., for foot-wear:		
United States.....do.....	398	412	Spain.....meters..	100	33
France.....do.....	431	390	France.....do.....	670	221
United Kingdom.....do.....	13,886	9,273	United Kingdom.....do.....	1,200	397
Other countries.....do.....	314	293	Italy.....do.....	4,512	1,493
Total.....do.....	15,234	10,563	Other countries.....do.....	7,365	2,437
Braids of cotton, elastic for bands:			Total.....do.....	13,847	4,582
United Kingdom.....meters..	14,200	294	Rubber shoes:		
Italy.....do.....	700	14	United States.....doz. pairs..	1,857	9,001
Total.....do.....	14,900	308	France.....do.....	30	155
Braids of silk, elastic for bands:			United Kingdom.....do.....	28	145
United Kingdom.....meters..	84,600	524	Italy.....do.....	22	114
Other countries.....do.....	200	1	Switzerland.....do.....	30	155
Total.....do.....	84,800	525	Total.....do.....	967	10,169
Elastic tape for girdles and bands:			Rubber boots:		
France.....meters..	667	181	United States.....pairs..	144	96
Total.....do.....	667	181	Total.....do.....	144	96
Cotton elastic for belts:			Football gaiters of rubber:		
Belgium.....do.....	31,300	341	United States.....pairs..	30	97
Italy.....do.....	18,000	161	Total.....do.....	30	97
Total.....do.....	49,300	502	Crude rubber for footwear:		
Galloons of cotton and rubber for belts:			Brazil.....kilos..	150	78
France.....meters..	1,075	55	Total.....do.....	150	78
Switzerland.....do.....	5,015	247	Rubber stoppers:		
Total.....do.....	6,090	302	Argentina.....doz..	394	103
Rubber hoods for capes:			United States.....do.....	4,233	2,777
Italy.....dozen.....	29	45	United Kingdom.....do.....	759	210
Total.....do.....	29	45	Netherlands.....do.....	1,164	652
Elastic cotton braid for hats:			Total.....do.....	7,050	3,742
Italy.....meters..	21,420	144	Sporting shoes of rubber and canvas:		
Total.....do.....	21,420	144	Germany.....doz..	10	52
Elastic of silk or mixed silk for footwear:			United States.....do.....	8	33
Italy.....meters..	1,656	856	United Kingdom.....do.....	32	95
Total.....do.....	1,656	856	Total.....do.....	50	180

EXHIBIT OF TANNED AND DRESSED PORPOISE SKIN.

A tanned and dressed skin of a common porpoise which was received through the United States Bureau of Fisheries has been placed on exhibition at the office of the Secretary of Commerce. This skin was prepared by the Michigan City Tanning Co., of Adrian, Mich., which reports that it is especially valuable for razor strops.

Many years ago there was considerable trade in porpoise skins, which were made into shoes, but in recent years practically no use has been made of these hides and the fishery has languished. The present indications are that, at least on the South Atlantic and Gulf coasts, the fishery will be resumed, owing to the active demand for leather and the abundance of porpoises. Various other skins of aquatic animals are now being prepared for exhibition at the office of the Secretary of Commerce.

EMBARGO ON EXPORTATION OF PALM OIL FROM NIGERIA.

[Consul Harry A. McBride, London, England, Oct. 9.]

An official notification published in the Nigerian Government Gazette of August 9, 1917, states that in the future palm oil will not be allowed to be exported to any country except the United Kingdom. This regulation will affect the few American importers who are taking advantage of the direct steamship service between the United States and West Africa for the importation of West African products.

In 1914 the imports of palm oil into the United Kingdom amounted to 1,318,303 hundredweight (hundredweight = 112 pounds), in 1915 to 1,347,379 hundredweight, and in 1916 to 1,243,556 hundredweight. Of the total imports during 1914, 1,195,696 hundredweight were of Nigerian origin. In 1915, 1,171,340 hundredweight, and in 1916, 1,037,361 hundredweight, came from Nigeria. It is evident that this colony is by far the most important supplier of palm oil to the United Kingdom. Smaller shipments are also received from Belgian Congo, French West Africa, the Gold Coast, and Sierra Leone.

[The imposition of export duties on palm products in Nigeria is noted in Foreign Tariff Notes No. 24, p. 108.]

SUGAR PRODUCTION OF PARAGUAY.

[Consul Henry H. Balch, Asuncion, Sept. 8.]

According to data obtained from La Camera de Comercio, of Asuncion, 15,400 tons of sugar cane were grown the present year on 4,500 hectares (11,120 acres) of land, from which 738 tons of sugar were produced, or about one-fourth the total amount required for the year's consumption. Paraguay's estimated sugar production since 1910 has been: 1910, 824 tons; 1911, 478 tons; 1912, 850 tons; 1913, 1,461 tons; 1914, 2,539 tons; 1915, 1,536 tons; 1916, 788 tons; and 1917, 738 tons.

Prolonged droughts, cold weather, and the appearance of locusts are the chief causes of the reduced output of the past two years. La Azucarera Paraguaya (at Tebicuari), Azucarera Villa Hayes (at Villa Hayes), and La Universal (at Villarrica) are the three leading sugar factories of Paraguay. Their equipment is fairly up to date.

Because of inadequate transportation facilities to the sugar factories, a large amount of the cane grown in the more remote places is consumed in the manufacture of aguardiente, a cheap form of brandy.

OFFICES OF THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE.**DISTRICT OFFICES.**

NEW YORK: 734 Customhouse.
BOSTON: 1801 Customhouse.
CHICAGO: 504 Federal Building.
ST. LOUIS: 402 Third National Bank Building.
NEW ORLEANS: 1020 Hibernia Bank Building.
SAN FRANCISCO: 307 Customhouse.
SEATTLE: 848 Henry Building.

COOPERATIVE OFFICES.

CLEVELAND: Chamber of Commerce.
CINCINNATI: Chamber of Commerce.
CINCINNATI: General Freight Agent, Southern Railway, 96 Ingalls Building.
LOS ANGELES: Chamber of Commerce.
PHILADELPHIA: Chamber of Commerce.
CHATTANOOGA: South American Agent, Southern Railway System.
PORTLAND, OREG.: Chamber of Commerce.
DAYTON: Greater Dayton Association.

PROPOSALS FOR GOVERNMENT SUPPLIES AND CONSTRUCTION.

[Correspondence should be direct with the offices named, and specifications and other information can usually be obtained at the points where the goods are to be delivered or the work is to be performed. In cases where the time limit is too short to permit firms to submit tenders, they should ask to be placed on the mailing lists of such offices to receive notices calling for future supplies or work of a similar nature.]

Electric elevator, No. 4862.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Bureau of Yards and Docks, Navy Department, Washington D. C., until November 19, 1917, for furnishing and installing one electric elevator in Building 16, at the Navy Yard, Norfolk (Portsmouth), Va. Refer to specifications No. 2638.

Navy Department supplies, No. 4863.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Bureau of Supplies and Accounts, Navy Department, Washington, D. C., to which Bureau firms desiring to submit proposals should apply, giving schedule numbers for furnishing the following: Schedule 1547, cast-iron pipe fittings, crosses, curves, caps, tees, etc., cast-iron soil-pipe fittings, and terracotta soil-pipe fittings; schedule 1548, cast-iron steam and water pipe fittings, steam and water nipples, iron pipe hooks, straps, etc., high-pressure galvanized screwed cast-iron lock nuts, galvanized screwed flange low-pressure steam and water cast-iron unions, and flanged galvanized screwed low-pressure steam and water malleable-iron unions.

Sale of miscellaneous property, No. 4864.—Sealed proposals will be received by the Lighthouse Inspector, Charleston, S. C., for the sale of miscellaneous condemned property of the Lighthouse Service at Charleston, S. C.

Railroad turntable, No. 4865.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Bureau of Yards and Docks, Navy Department, Washington, D. C., until November 19, 1917, for furnishing and installing a railroad turntable at the Navy Yard, Philadelphia, Pa. Refer to specifications No. 2637.

Government property sale, No. 4866.—Sealed proposals may be received from the Lighthouse Inspector at Ketchikan, Alaska, for the sale, about November 27, 1917, by the Lighthouse Service of miscellaneous condemned Government property which may be inspected on board the tender *Cedar* at Seattle, Wash.

Subsistence stores, No. 4867.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the Depot Quartermaster, American Bank Building, Kansas City, Mo., until November 2, 1917, for delivery at Kansas City, Mo., on or before November 15, 1917, canned corned beef, canned corned beef hash, canned salmon, white and yellow corn meal, baking powder, canned baked beans, evaporated apples, evaporated peaches, coffee, rice, sugar, pickles, salt, pepper, sirups, flavoring extracts, oatmeal, macaroni, etc.

Automatic sprinklers, No. 4868.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Bureau of Yards and Docks, Navy Department, Washington, D. C., until November 12, 1917, for two wet-pipe systems of automatic sprinklers in Buildings Nos. 10 and 12, in the navy yard, Philadelphia, Pa. Specifications No. 2648.

Stone, No. 4869.—Sealed proposals will be received at the United States Engineer Office, customhouse, New Orleans, La., until November 27, 1917, for furnishing and placing on the jetties at Southwest Pass, Mississippi River, about 33,300 tons of stone.

Freight elevator, No. 4870.—Sealed proposals will be received by the Lighthouse Inspector, Tompkinsville, N. Y., until November 5, 1917, for one electric freight elevator.

Wood floors, No. 4871.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Bureau of Yards and Docks, Navy Department, Washington, D. C., until November 12, 1917, for creosoted wood block floors in the structural shop, machine shop, and foundry at the navy yard, Norfolk, Va. Refer to specifications No. 2647.

Sale of condemned property, No. 4872.—Sealed proposals will be received by the Lighthouse Inspector, Baltimore, Md., for the sale of condemned lighthouse property, including 12 old row and sail boats, located at Portsmouth, Va., and Baltimore, Md.

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the Bureau and its district and cooperative offices. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and state opportunity number. The Bureau does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases. Symbols: * Reported by American consular officers; † Reported by commercial attachés and commercial agents; ‡ Direct inquiries received by the Bureau.

In considering the following "opportunities" special regard should be had to the laws and regulations governing export licenses and trading with the enemy.

Nautical instruments-----	25612	Machinery-----	25686, 25687, 25690
Saws-----	25680	Barometers-----	25692
Soap-----	25688	Flag bunting-----	25692
Thermometers-----	25692	Glass, ship light-----	25692
Violin strings-----	25693	Hosiery-----	25612

25686.*—A company in India desires to purchase machinery for making wire nails, sheet-metal buttons for trousers, and lamp wicks of all kinds and sizes. Payment will be made by cash against documents. Correspondence may be in English. Reference.

25687.*—A firm in Australia wishes to secure an agency for the sale of labor-saving machinery and devices for jewelry manufactures, such as tools, presses, sand-blasting apparatus, gilding outfits, stripping outfits, punches, and dies; electric arc welding systems; and metallic arc systems, preferably a coated electrode type. Quotations may be made f. o. b. New York. Payment will be made by letter of credit. Correspondence may be in English. References.

25688.*—A company in China desires to purchase or secure an agency for the sale of laundry soap put up in bars of two tablets each, each bar incased in a thin carton with 72 bars to the case, the total weight being 38 pounds. Quotations may be made f. o. b. Pacific coast port with estimate on ocean charges. Payment will be made by sight draft against documents or 60 days' credit. Correspondence may be in English. References.

25689.*—An agency is desired by a company for the sale of circular saws, strap saws, and saws of all kinds. Catalogues should be submitted. Correspondence should be in French or Italian, preferably the latter. Reference.

25690.*—A man in France desires to purchase knitting machinery adaptable to both wool and cotton yarn. All catalogues, literature, and correspondence should be in French, if possible. Prices and full information should be submitted. Payment will be made by cash against documents. References.

25691.*—A company in England is in the market for half and full hose for men and women. Fancy mixtures, cotton, merino, khaki golf hose, ribbed cashmere, etc., are desired. It is willing to pay for samples of 1/12 dozen pairs of each, total value not to exceed \$9.73, and if approved sample sets will be ordered for India and China. Quotations should be made f. o. b. New York. Payment will be made by cash in New York. References.

25692.*—A firm in Italy desires to purchase or secure an agency for the sale of sextants, chronometers, ship clocks, barometers, and thermometers in centigrade, sounding machinery, glass for ship lights, nautical charts of all descriptions, and flag bunting of all colors, especially red, white, and green. Correspondence should be in French or Italian. Payment will be made by cash against documents.

25693.*—A firm in Canada desires to be placed in communication with American manufacturers and exporters of violin strings. Prices should be submitted. Correspondence may be in English. References.

Consul Wilbert L. Bonney reports from Rosario, Argentina, that the sugar refinery at Rosario, which has long been closed on account of two poor crops in succession, will shortly begin work upon raw sugar imported by special dispensation of the Federal Government.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND COMMERCE REPORTS



DAILY CONSULAR AND TRADE REPORTS
ISSUED DAILY BY THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE
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1917

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SPANISH EMBARGO ON PRESERVED MEATS.

According to a cablegram from the American consul general at Barcelona, a Spanish royal order of October 23 prohibits the exportation of preserved meats of all kinds. [Notice of the recent Spanish embargo on certain cereal food products was given in **COMMERCE REPORTS** for Sept. 17.]

AMERICAN PURCHASES OF PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND POTATOES.

[Consul William A. Pierce, Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, Canada, Oct. 22.]

The movement of potatoes of the present crop from Prince Edward Island to the United States began on September 28 and has steadily increased in volume. During the 25-day period more than 135,000 bushels have been shipped, almost all going to New England points.

White and red potatoes are being exported. Blues are not in demand in the American markets. The quality of the crop this year is exceptionally fine. Prices in the local markets have risen about 100 per cent on account of the strong demand.

The 1916 potato crop of the island was around 7,000,000 bushels. There is an increased potato acreage this year, estimated at not less than 10 per cent. A crop of 8,000,000 bushels is expected.

HAWAIIANS MAY INVEST IN PHILIPPINE SUGAR MILLS.

[A. P. Taylor, correspondent, Honolulu.]

A deputation of three Hawaiian sugar producers has left for Manila to investigate a project there for the organization of one to three new sugar centrals, the mills to be capitalized, constructed, and operated by Hawaiian capital. The lands are to be operated as cane-sugar estates by Manila capitalists.

The mills, if authorized, will be constructed by the Honolulu Iron Works. A first-class mill heretofore has cost from \$700,000 to \$1,000,000. The higher price of materials may easily cause an initial cost of \$1,000,000. This company already has furnished two centrals for the Philippines and four for Formosa, and has constructed practically all of the mills in operation throughout the Hawaiian Islands, besides furnishing one for Mexico and two for Cuba.

IMPORTANCE OF BULGARIA'S TOBACCO TRADE.

[From the *Frankfurter Zeitung* of Sept. 5.]

A Sofia correspondent reports that one of the greatest changes in Bulgarian industrial conditions brought about as a result of the war is the marvelous growth of the tobacco trade. The cause of this is readily comprehensible to one who takes a glance at the different influences that have been playing on the tobacco trade since the beginning of the war. Of the total 1912 Bulgarian tobacco crop of about 6,000,000 kilos (13,227,600 pounds) almost all was used in domestic factories for the manufacture of cigars and cigarettes; less than 1,125,000 marks in value was exported in the form of raw tobacco. The average annual export in the last five years before the war was about 750,000 marks. To-day many hundreds of millions of marks worth of tobacco are ready for export.

That part of Greece in which the famous Turkish tobacco is grown is now in the hands of Bulgaria. The importance to Bulgaria of these new acquisitions must not be underestimated.

Last Year's Crop—Measures to Regulate Stocks.

The Bulgarian tobacco harvest of last year yielded a total of about 18,000,000 kilos. Of this amount 3,000,000 kilos were needed for home consumption, thus leaving 15,000,000 kilos for export. The Government has adopted measures to prevent an exhaustion of the stock, which might have been caused by the high prices that have come to rule in Germany, Austria, and Serbia; each exporter must place 15 per cent of his exportable quantity at the disposition of domestic factories, at a fixed maximum price. As the average price of export tobacco is between 15 and 20 marks per kilo, it is quite apparent that Bulgaria has a very powerful medium for keeping her exchange at a satisfactory level.

FINANCES OF DUTCH RAILWAYS.

[Consul Frank W. Mahin, Amsterdam, Sept. 20.]

The gross receipts of the State, Holland, and Netherlands Central Railway companies during the first six months of 1916 were 45,029,014 florins (\$18,101,664). Fares were increased 20 per cent beginning January 1, 1917, but the gross receipts in the first six months of 1917 were increased in much less proportion, being 48,135,614 florins (\$19,350,517).

The expenses rose in much greater proportion, from 42,161,235 florins (\$16,948,817) during the first six months of 1916 to 48,340,585 florins (\$19,432,915) in the corresponding period of 1917. Thus the business shows an actual loss in 1917.

The fares were increased an additional 30 per cent during the months of July, August, and September, 1917. This increase, covering the vacation months, was partly to gain more revenue and partly to discourage tourist travel, for the purpose of saving fuel. It is believed that the latter object was effected. If so, the increased revenue will be negligible, and with the constant advance of operating expenses, in an ever-increasing ratio, there is no probability of any profit on the whole year's business.

There are also three small railway companies operating on the German and Belgian border, but their business is negligible compared with that of the three large ones mentioned herein.

QUAYAQUIL MARKET REPORT FOR SEPTEMBER.

[Consul General Frederic W. Goding, Guayaquil, Ecuador, Oct. 6.]

The opening quotations of \$8.40, \$8, and \$7.60 per quintal for Arriba, Machala, and Balao cacao, respectively, were sustained throughout the month. There was no change in the American market, the stocks remaining the same and the buyers abstaining from making any offers for large quantities. As regards Europe, conditions remain the same as last month. England still prohibits its importation, and even though there is a fair demand for cacao in France, the exportation is very limited for lack of space on the steamers. This is also the case with the Scandinavian countries, which have not received cacao for some time.

The exports of cacao during September amounted to 6,954,256 pounds, as follows: Chile, 36,154 pounds; Peru, 7,209; Spain, 1,071,713; and the United States, 5,839,180.

Receipts of coffee were very light during the month, but the prices of \$9.60 for first grade and \$9.20 for second grade were maintained. There were 981,105 pounds shipped, as follows: Chile, 968,808 pounds; Peru, 2,028; and the United States, 10,269.

The hide market was very quiet, with no variations in the quotations, which were \$16.80, \$16, and \$8, respectively, for serranos, criollos, and picados. There were 207,593 pounds shipped to the United States.

No change was noted in the prices of rubber during the month, the market remaining quiet. Maromas were quoted at \$26 and hojas at \$22. The exports to the United States amounted to 15,082 pounds.

Imports and Exchange.

There were 32,385 packages weighing 8,220 tons imported during September, and were from the following countries: Canal Zone, 175 packages; Chile, 432; France, 535; Italy, 9; Peru, 4,582; Spain, 881; United Kingdom, 2,366; United States, 23,368; and Uruguay, 37.

The exchange during the month ranged from 256 to 272.

SUPPLIES OF WEAVING MATERIALS IN GERMANY.

[From the Rheinisch-Westfälische Zeitung of Sept. 1.]

In the last few months very little raw cotton has been used by the German spinners, and those small quantities were devoted to military use. As a result of the discovery and development of different surrogates, however, the spinners have been kept fairly busy during the spring and summer. The much-talked-of paper yarn has also helped to keep the spindles busy. It is hardly believable, although true, that the profits of the different factories have been much higher than even in peace times. Many concerns that never paid dividends before are now paying well.

Nettle fiber, which is the best cotton surrogate that Germany has found, is now being produced on a large scale, exclusively for military use. Over 5,000,000 marks are now invested in nettle-producing concerns.

[Reports on the use of nettle fibers in the textile industry were published in **COMMERCIAL REPORTS** for Jan. 15 and Apr. 24, 1916, and Jan. 8 and 10, 1917.]

CONDITION OF CROPS IN CANADA.

[Consul General John G. Foster, Ottawa, Oct. 19.]

A further provisional estimate of grain crops in Canada which has just been issued by the Census and Statistics Office, shows something of a reduction compared with previous estimates for the crops at the time of harvesting on September 30 last.

It is now estimated that the total yield of wheat for Canada will be 231,730,200 bushels, the average yield per acre being $15\frac{1}{2}$ bushels, as compared with 17 bushels for 1916. Of oats the total yield is 393,570,000 bushels as compared with 410,211,000 bushels in 1916, the average yield per acre being $29\frac{1}{2}$ bushels in 1917 as compared with 37.30 bushels in 1916. The barley yield is 51,684,000 bushels as compared with 42,770,000 bushels in 1916. The yield of rye is 4,239,800 bushels; the pea crop is estimated at 2,786,600 bushels, an average of $18\frac{1}{2}$ bushels per acre; beans are estimated at 635,700 bushels; buckwheat at 7,189,000 bushels; mixed grains, 15,741,000 bushels; and corn for husking, 6,193,000 bushels.

Grain crops at the time of harvesting in respect to quality as measured against a standard of 100, were as follows: Fall wheat, 76; spring wheat, 72; all wheat, 73; oats, 74; barley, 75; rye, 79; peas, 69; beans, 71; buckwheat, 63; mixed grains, 79; flax, 67; and corn for husking, 67. The figures are generally high for Ontario, wheat being 80, oats 92, and barley 89. In Quebec wheat is 67 and oats 74. In the prairie Provinces wheat is 75 in Manitoba, 70 in Saskatchewan, and 75 in Alberta.

The condition of root and fodder crops, measured against a standard of 100 as representing a full crop, was, on September 30, as follows: Potatoes, 64; turnips, 72; mangolds, carrots, etc., 77; sugar beets, 76; corn for fodder, 72; and alfalfa, 81. The condition of the potato crop, by Provinces, was, on September 30, as follows: Prince Edward Island, 81; Nova Scotia, 77; New Brunswick, 57; Quebec, 47; Ontario, 81; Manitoba, 69; Saskatchewan, 71; Alberta, 89; and British Columbia, 70.

HONGKONG COAL SITUATION.

[Consul General George E. Anderson, Hongkong, British China, Sept. 10.]

For some time the coal and general fuel situation in Hongkong has been serious, and there is every reason to believe that during the next six months it will grow decidedly worse. In a general way the shortage of shipping is responsible for much of the present difficulty, although other factors are involved. Because of increased cost of mining and also because the producers can secure a higher price for their product, the price of coal at the mines in Japan (which dominate the Hongkong market and furnish normally about 70 per cent of the total imports of coal in Hongkong and South China) has been greatly advanced.

The continued withdrawal of shipping from the South Asia routes and the disposition of shipowners to seek other and more profitable cargo than coal have caused prices to so advance that ordinary grades of Japanese soft coal are retailing in Hongkong at \$18 gold per ton as compared with \$4 to \$5 gold per ton three years ago. A large

Hongkong industrial concern, which three years ago secured its coal supply by annual contract at about \$3.70 gold per ton, has recently contracted for its supply at a trifle over \$15 gold per ton.

May Lead to Development of Chinese Mines.

Coal is imported into Hongkong not only for local industrial purposes but also to supply ship's bunkers. The price of bunker coal has risen so sharply that Hongkong is no longer regarded as a coal-ing port for any vessels but those compelled to take coal here in emergencies. The cost of all local steamer transportation (inland and coastwise) has advanced, coasting lines advancing fares usually 20 per cent and inland steamers usually 16½ per cent. Freights have advanced in even greater proportion. Hongkong industries are seriously crippled.

One result of current high prices has been increasing use of Chinese coal, particularly that from North China, but also coal obtained at various points in Kwangtung and Kwangsi Provinces from outcrop mines. A continuation of present fuel conditions for any considerable length of time will unquestionably lead to important development of the South China coal deposits. Transportation is the chief difficulty to be overcome, and that would be speedily disposed of if rails and other railway material and equipment could be obtained under reasonable conditions.

NEW RUSSIAN EXCHANGE BUREAU.

[Vice Consul Felix Cole, Petrograd, Sept. 7.]

On the basis of the Temporary Government's decree of June 18, 1917, a special exchange bureau has been founded under the Special Credit Chancellery of the Russian Ministry of Finance to carry on operations in foreign exchange and to supervise ruble deposits made to the credit of foreign firms and institutions or to their representatives in Russia.

The bureau includes representatives from the Credit Chancellery, the National Bank, the Ministry of Trade and Industry, the Auditor General, the price committee of the Petrograd Stock Exchange, and representatives from Petrograd and provincial banks. The bureau will meet not less than twice a week and will establish customs rates. It will furnish foreign exchange to pay for merchandise transactions on certificates issued by the Ministry of Trade and Industry and to pay for other remittances on certificates furnished by the remittance bureau of the Ministry of Finance.

Permission to deposit money and securities to the credit of foreign firms and institutions must be applied for not later than the evening of the day before the next session of the bureau, and full information must be given at that time, as well as a copy of the order to make the deposits from the firm to whom the deposit is to be made, and additional particulars and documents may be required. The permission may be conditioned by the requirement that the deposit be claimed within a specified period.

The bureau may also establish the commission to be charged by banks on operations that have passed through its hands.

SIAM'S NEW BUDGET ESTIMATES.

[Chargé d'Affaires Frank D. Arnold, American Legation, Bangkok.]

A report just issued by the Financial Adviser of Siam contains figures not only of the Kingdom's actual revenue and expenditure in the fiscal year 1915-16 but also the budget estimates for 1916-17 and 1917-18.

For the first-named year (1915-16) there was a surplus of ordinary revenue over ordinary expenditure of \$2,696,723 instead of the deficit of \$100,812 that was expected when the budget estimates for that twelve-month were made up. This gratifying result was due to increased returns from mines, railway traffic, interest and commission, land revenue, capitation tax, and customs, and to larger profits from the opium monopoly arising from the lower price at which the raw drug was purchased as compared with the price on which the estimates were based; and also to a reduction of more than \$92,500 in expenditures.

Estimates for 1916-17 and 1917-18.

The actual results of 1916-17 (year ending Mar. 31) are not yet at hand. As budgeted ordinary expenditures exceeded ordinary revenues by \$831,383, this deficit being made good by the transfer of funds from the Treasury reserve. A deficit of \$1,274,170 is looked for in the current fiscal year (1917-18), likewise to be met by drawing on Treasury funds. This shortage is due solely to the closing down of the remaining gambling houses in the Capital—a measure involving the loss of some \$1,185,400. As presented in the Financial Adviser's report, the actual receipts and the expenditures chargeable to revenue for 1915-16 and the budget estimates under the several heads for 1916-17 and 1917-18 are:

Revenues and expenditure.	Actual, 1915-16.	Budget, 1916-17.	Budget, 1917-18.
ORDINARY REVENUE.			
Government domains.....	\$1,760,088	\$1,675,570	\$1,634,649
Commercial services.....	2,886,346	2,842,949	3,067,343
Other direct revenue.....	779,224	466,707	605,865
Direct taxes.....	5,899,602	5,770,319	5,971,242
Other taxes.....	8,719,053	7,132,636	6,313,327
Government opium regie.....	6,142,188	5,970,078	5,640,616
Fees, fines, and licenses.....	2,063,051	1,991,749	2,017,262
Miscellaneous.....	420,282	340,102	398,972
Total current revenue.....	28,669,834	26,190,168	25,739,806
Deduct for short collections.....		264,258	258,426
Net total.....	28,669,834	25,925,910	25,481,380
Add transfer from Treasury reserve.....		831,383	1,274,170
Grand total ordinary revenue.....	28,669,834	26,757,293	26,755,550
ORDINARY EXPENDITURE.			
Ministry of the Interior.....	2,595,986	2,360,571	2,156,562
Ministry of War.....	4,813,052	5,007,150	5,007,150
Ministry of Marine.....	1,478,438	1,639,378	1,639,378
Ministry of Foreign Affairs.....	483,874	418,195	421,868
Ministry of Local Government.....	2,974,701	3,409,718	3,477,162
Ministry of Finance.....	2,091,098	2,072,250	2,103,678
Ministry of Justice.....	993,144	1,049,429	1,267,998
Ministry of Public Instruction and Worship.....	677,139	718,147	779,527
Ministry of Communications.....	1,873,131	2,222,357	2,288,600
Ministry of Lands and Agriculture.....	700,637	838,638	798,642
Ministry of Privy Seal.....	59,977	51,535	51,535
Miscellaneous departments.....	406,813	385,734	368,064
Special budget.....	6,823,121	6,598,171	6,408,390
Total expenditure chargeable to revenue.....	25,978,111	26,757,293	26,755,000

Expenditures Chargeable to Other Accounts.

In addition to the foregoing expenditures chargeable to revenue certain outlays chargeable to other accounts are provided for. Under "Expenditure chargeable to loan account," the sum of \$2,597,064 was actually spent in 1915-16 and \$2,332,590 and \$2,149,366 estimated for 1916-17 and 1917-18, respectively. This was for construction of Southern Railway main lines.

The totals under "Expenditure chargeable to Treasury reserve" are: 1915-16 (actual), \$980,545; 1916-17 (estimated), \$4,215,769; 1917-18 (estimated), \$4,951,588. These sums were distributed among Northern Railway construction, Southern Railway construction (branch lines), Government electric-power station, Bangkok water works, irrigation (this item showing an increase from \$194,920 in 1915-16 to an estimated \$1,294,986 in 1916-17 and \$1,721,532 in 1917-18), construction of new royal yacht, and allotment to revenue budget for current expenditure (being the sums set aside to cover the anticipated deficits of \$831,383 and \$1,274,170 already noted).

Under "Expenditure chargeable to loan sinking fund" the outlays are \$275,994, \$289,109, and \$301,163, respectively, and cover the service of the £1,000,000 loan of 1905 and the £3,000,000 loan of 1907.

NEW ZEALANDERS APPROVE AMERICAN SHOE STYLES.

New Zealand people can afford to buy the higher priced footwear, and the merchants in that country who sell shoes are careful, conservative dealers, with whom American manufacturers will find it advantageous to do business, according to conclusions drawn from a recent investigation of that market by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

In the Bureau's published report on the subject it is stated that shoe exporters in this country have it in their power to increase their sales in New Zealand in spite of the preferential tariff that operates against them. American shoes are as well thought of there as in other parts of the world, and the strongest bid for patronage that a retailer can make is to show in his windows shoes marked "Latest American style."

The business obtainable in the New Zealand market is well worth cultivating. Of the \$2,000,000 worth of footwear imported in 1916 only about \$175,000 worth came from the United States. There is little question that American shoes could hold a more important place in the market, says the report, if more sales energy were back of them. Other shoes are being sold for fully as high prices as would have to be charged for American shoes, grade for grade.

The bulletin analyzes the New Zealand markets for boots and shoes, the merchandising methods of the trade, and the shoe-manufacturing industry of the island, and there are chapters on harness and saddlery, hides and skins, and the tanning industry. Copies are sold at 5 cents each by the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C., and the district and cooperative offices of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

Consul General James A. Smith reports from Calcutta that in the three months, April to June, 1917, 63 companies were incorporated in British India and Mysore, having an aggregate authorized capital of \$5,703,200. Ten of the new corporations are tea plantations.

DUNDEE JAM SUPPLY.

[Vice Consul E. B. Pottle, Dundee, Scotland, Oct. 8.]

The organization of the jam-manufacturing firms, with the view of providing for the enormous demand of the British Army and Navy, is one of the commissary triumphs of the war, and Dundee firms have played a great part in this tremendous undertaking.

The South African war afforded jam manufacturers a slight idea of the magnitude of the demands of a huge army mobilized and on the field of battle, and they benefited by this preliminary experience. When the great war broke out they quickly grasped the situation which they would be likely called upon to face. They modernized and standardized their machinery, and now they are producing jam upon a vast scale. The weekly output of tins of one Dundee maker alone would, if stood end on end, form a column fully 40 miles high. It is no unusual thing for this firm to deal with 100,000,000 oranges. All kinds of fruit are dealt with on a similar gigantic scale.

New Cardboard Container.

The absolute dependence on tin for containers is no longer necessary, and it is claimed that in the near future the earthenware and glass jars and the tin cylinders used for jam will be completely superseded. A stout cardboard "pot" or cylinder is now being made, and, as far as has been demonstrated, it has proved very successful. Its use means a saving in the original cost as well as in the outlay now involved in "returned empties," as the pots may be thrown away after use.

While the Government is safeguarding the interests of the Navy and Army, it is not forgetting those of the general public. Believing that jam is a fairly good substitute for butter and similar fats, it has made every endeavor to provide the jam manufacturers with as much sugar as possible. Only a quarter of the pre-war supply of sugar has been allowed for confectionary, but the usual pre-war requirements have been allowed for jam making.

Domestic Fruit for Preserves.

As much home fruit as ever is being converted into preserves, the diminution being only in foreign imported fruits, such as Dutch black and red currants. So far as Dundee is concerned, there is also a diminution in the quantity of raspberries converted owing to the Government having commandeered the crop.

The sugar scarcity has resulted in another departure, one of the large firms having pulped and preserved in barrels a very large quantity of fruit, which will be manufactured into the finished article when occasion arises.

So far as the general public is concerned, it may be stated that in present circumstances there is little likelihood of any decrease occurring in the price of preserves.

The movement of specie and bullion into and out of the Gold Coast Colony in 1916 was, according to a report from Consul W. J. Yerby, in excess of \$11,600,000. Imports had an aggregate value of \$4,414,651 (gold specie \$363,977, silver specie \$4,016,213, copper specie \$13,722, bullion \$20,739), and exports totaled \$7,210,937 (gold specie \$9,732, silver specie \$1,156,514, copper specie \$486, gold and gold dust \$5,843,424, auriferous by-products \$200,781).

ITALIAN MAXIMUM PRICES FOR VARIOUS CEREALS.

[Consul General David F. Wilber, Genoa, Sept. 26.]

The *Gazzetta Ufficiale*, published at Rome, August 30, 1917, contains a regulation of the commissary general for supply and consumption of food establishing the maximum prices to be observed for the requisitioning of the crop of the whole rice of 1917. The maximum prices per quintal of 220.46 pounds net that must be observed are: Whole rice, common, 40 lire (\$7.72 at par of exchange); whole rice, semifine, 42 lire (\$8.11); whole rice, fine, 44 lire (\$8.49). These prices are at the storehouse of the holder, sacked by him, in sacks and with cord furnished by the requisition committee.

The maximum prices are applicable to lots which for maturity, purity, and immunity from disease and parasites are judged commercially to rank among the best of the production of 1917. For lots which do not possess these requisites the price will be proportionately reduced.

For consignments from the first of November to the end of February 25 centesimi (4.8 cents) more will be paid for each quintal of rice, and for each month or fraction of a month in the period of time following February this increase will be 40 centesimi for each quintal of rice.

Regulation for Barley, Rye, Oats, and Maize.

On the same date as the regulation applying to rice, the *Gazzetta Ufficiale* published a regulation of the Commissary General for supply and consumption of food, establishing the maximum prices to be observed for the requisitioning of the barley, rye, oats, and maize of the crop of 1917. These prices per quintal net of grain, at the storehouse of the holder, sacked by him, in sacks and with cord furnished by the requisition committee, are: Barley, 43 lire; rye, 43 lire; oats, 36 lire; maize, 36 lire. For the grain already requisitioned or consigned will be due the gain derived from the increase of price resulting from the application of this regulation.

The maximum price for maize is to be applied to those lots which correspond to the best commercial requirements as to variety, nutrient, specific weight, maturity, and good condition; for barley, rye, and oats are applied the rules of a ministerial notification of June 4, 1917.

For the consignments of maize after October 31, 1917, will be paid 25 centesimi more for each quintal of maize, for each month or fraction of a month; for consignments of oats, barley, and rye, the increase established by the ministerial notification which has been mentioned.

[Articles relating to requisition and prices of cereals in Italy were published in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for July 31, Aug. 24, and Oct. 9, 1917.]

STATISTICAL STUDIES OFFERED FOR INSPECTION.

The following statistical studies, recently compiled by the Research Division of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, may be examined by interested persons upon application to the Bureau: Exports of domestic dyestuffs from Germany, under specified heads, 1913; imports of fish into specified countries; imports of rice into Cuba, by countries, years ended June 30, 1912-1916; and trade of Germany with countries specified, 1913, in million marks.

RAILROADS OF NORTHERN ARGENTINA.

[Consul Wilbert L. Bonney, Rosario, Aug. 9.]

The pending proposal of privately owned railway lines in the Rosario district, in conjunction with other railways of Argentina, to increase their rates by 22 per cent, has brought into discussion the financial condition of the companies and their relations to the public. There is no doubt that during the last three years these railways have been subjected to the severest hardships by reason of economic and financial conditions entirely beyond their control, and they have made every effort to adapt their operations to the continued emergency which has confronted them. A 10 per cent increase in tariffs which became effective October 1, 1915, combined with economies and retrenchments, has not sufficed to meet the adverse circumstances existing since the middle of 1914.

Mileage and Capital of Railways in Rosario District.

The six railway systems which logically belong to the Rosario district comprise 9,981 miles of trackage, or nearly one-half the mileage of the Republic. Of this mileage 5,431 miles are narrow gauge, 752 miles standard gauge, and 3,798 broad gauge. Of the narrow-gauge lines, 3,045 miles are owned and operated by the Federal Government. It is scarcely possible to make general statements regarding the capitalization per mile in view of the fact that the principal line of the district, the Central Argentine Railroad, is a broad-gauge line traversing a settled territory and is capitalized at approximately \$70,000 per mile, while the Government lines are narrow gauge and in part traverse a new and sparsely settled territory requiring only simple equipment and emergency construction, and are capitalized at slightly under \$40,000 per mile. The total capital of the six railways is approximately \$555,804,903 or \$55,690 per mile, and the approximate gross earnings for the year 1916 were \$51,137,134. It will be seen that while the capitalization per mile is moderate, as would be expected in a district for the most part level and requiring no expensive engineering work, the gross earnings are less than 10 per cent upon the capitalization. For Argentine railways outside the district the gross earnings rarely exceed 10 per cent. The Argentine Government has not permitted itself to intervene to limit railway rates until they reach 16 per cent gross, a condition not likely soon to be realized nor for many years.

The law relating to taxation of railway property known as the Mitre law, which went into effect April 1, 1908, exempts the railroads from certain taxes, but in spite of this local municipalities have been endeavoring to collect taxes for paving, lighting, etc. [See COMMERCE REPORTS for Mar. 12, 1917.]

Some State Roads Do Not Show Profitable Operation.

The State Railways have an interest outside of their financial returns, as some of them have been constructed directly across the regular trade channels and outside of the sphere of developed territory with objects other than profit.

The narrow gauge line (North Central Railway) from Tucuman to La Quiaca on the Bolivian frontier probably would not have been constructed by private capital for profit. However, it is an indis-

pensable link in a transcontinental system and traverses what is doubtless the poorest part of Northern Argentina from an agricultural standpoint. It is expected to develop some international freight traffic when the Bolivian connecting line is completed, and it has given relief to the country north of Tucuman. It is well equipped and administered; exchanges cars with the Central Cordoba Railway at Tucuman, which is of the same gauge; serves to connect the provincial capitals of Jujuy and Salta with the capital of the Republic; and carries a limited amount of Bolivian products as well as the local production of goat skins and wool, fruits, and sugar, from the frontier to the Argentine mark (s. Trains run twice a week both ways. Unlike other railway construction in Argentina this line had to overcome many engineering difficulties. In the 9-mile stretch from Leon to Vulcan there is an ascent of more than 1,400 feet and a cog-and-rack arrangement assists the trains on the incline. The highest point at Las Cruces is about 12,000 feet above sea level, a higher altitude than is reached on the Transandine line.

An important unit of the system of State lines branches from the Tucuman-La Quiaca line at Perico and traverses the undeveloped country through Embarcación to the Paraná River. Another State development line connects the Tucuman-La Quiaca branch with the Paraná River, running from Metán to Barranqueras. These are all narrow-gauge lines and are now taxed to capacity with wood traffic. Last season they were obliged to borrow cars from private lines to handle the freight.

These narrow-gauge State lines of the Rosario district connect the provincial capitals of Santa Fé, Córdoba, San Juan, La Rioja, Catamarca, Salta, Jujuy, Santiago del Estero, and Tucuman, reaching also La Quiaca, Ganceda, Tintina, Embarcación, Formosa, Resistencia, Andalgalá, Tinogasta, and other points. They have a total extension of 3,045 miles, 272 stations, and a capitalization of \$115,800,000. In 1915 the State lines converted their usual loss into a small profit, and under an unusually efficient control in 1916 this was increased to one-third of 1 per cent upon capitalization. The returns for 1917 promise a further increase in revenue and a corresponding profit.

State Railway System Desires Entrance to Buenos Aires.

Early in 1917 the administrator of the State Railways made an informal suggestion that the State lines be fused with the Cordoba Central Railway or that the latter line be acquired by the State, in order to give the Government system an entrance to Buenos Aires. The suggested action would bring the State lines clearly into the field of competition with private lines.

It was reported in 1916 that an offer had been made by an American syndicate for the purchase of the exploitation lines of the State in the northern part of the district, and in that connection it was said that one of the objects sought was the exploitation of oil lands believed to exist along the Argentina-Bolivia frontier.

The district traversed by the railways of the Rosario district is agricultural and there is a preponderance of low-grade freight. The ton-mile rate on the principal line of the district was stated to be approximately 1.7 cents and on the other lines varies from 1.4 to 1.8 cents.

At present northern Argentina is not an inviting field for further railway enterprises. A succession of good crops and the substantial settlement of new agricultural centers might, however, produce a favorable change in this respect.

A compulsory pension system has been proposed and is under consideration by the Federal authorities. In its initial form it contemplated a heavy burden for the railways and it is believed that it will be substantially modified in passing through the stages of discussion and legislation.

Railways Operating in Rosario District—Province of Santa Fe Line.

The railways serving, in part or wholly, the Rosario district are as follows:

Railroad.	Mileage.	Ownership.	Gauge.
Province of Santa Fe.....	1,181	French....	Narrow.
Argentine North Eastern.....	752	British....	Standard.
Rosario-Puerto Belgrano.....	493	French....	Broad.
Cordoba Central.....	1,205	British....	Narrow.
Central Argentine.....	3,305	do.....	Broad.
Central North Argentine.....	3,045	State.....	Narrow.
Total.....	9,981		

A brief summary of data relative to the privately owned lines, while not attempting to present anything new, may be of use in explaining the present condition and prospects of the enterprises.

The Province of Santa Fé railway is officially known as the *Compagnie Francaise des Chemins-de-fer de la Province de Santa Fé*, and its directorate is located at 66 Rue de la Chaussée d'Antin, Paris, France. The main line follows the valley of the Paraná River. The capital stock of the company is said to be \$55,000,000 (285,000,000 francs). The enterprise has exhibited increasing gross earnings for the last four years, and it is understood that the management has not joined with the British companies in the movement to increase tariffs. The operating income for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1917, is unofficially given as \$5,760,875. This line is especially fortunate at present, as it traverses the wooded regions and is able to obtain its fuel at a low cost and to make a large revenue out of the transport of fuel to other lines and industries. Two years ago this railroad was required by the Government to extend its line from Tartagal to Parallel 28. After securing an extension of time, the order was again given in April, 1917, and the road was authorized to issue debentures to the amount of \$2,000,000 Argentine gold. The wood traffic of the road for 1917 is estimated to amount to 1,500,000 metric tons. The road also has a fair traffic in grain and live stock.

In its attempt to operate certain railroads of Argentina in 1913 the Farquhar Syndicate acquired approximately 10,000 shares of the capital of this French railroad, which shares, in the later liquidation of the syndicate, were turned over to the Central Argentine, the Cordoba Central, and other creditors.

Argentine North Eastern and Rosario to Puerto Belgrano.

The head offices of the Argentine North Eastern are located at 54-56 Palmerston House, Old Broad Street, London. Its main line

follows the Uruguay River from Concordia to Posadas. The capital stock is about \$35,539,985. In February, 1915, this line was placed under joint management with the Entre Rios Railway, with general offices at Concordia, and the directorates were interlocked. The earnings for the year ending June 30, 1917, will show a substantial increase over the preceding year. As far back as 1912-13 the road did not earn its debenture interest and borrowed £100,000 from the Entre Rios Railway. In 1915 the road found itself unable to meet the half year's interest on its "B" debentures, and an arrangement was made for payment in scrip, payment in cash being resumed July 1, 1916. This line enjoys a good share of the live stock traffic of the district.

The stock is dealt in upon the London Stock Exchange, and the latest available quotation, of July 26, 1917, was £20 for the ordinary share of £100 par value. The earnings of the company for the year ended June 30, 1917, are unofficially stated to be about \$1,893,555.

The Rosario to Puerto Belgrano line is officially known as the *Compagnie du Chemin-de-fer de Rosario à Puerto Belgrano*, and the directorate is located at No. 22 Rue Caumartin, Paris, France. The capital stock is approximately \$32,818,000, and the gross receipts for the year ended June 30, 1917, are understood to be \$983,747, a substantial decrease as compared with the two preceding years. The route is across the usual trade channels. This road was opened to service January 1, 1912, although operating provisionally in 1911. Its northern terminus is at the corner of Berrutti and Rio Bamba Streets, Rosario, and its southern terminus is at Punta Alta (Puerto Militar), a short distance from Bahia Blanca. The road traverses the counties of Rosario, San Lorenzo, Caseros, and General Lopez in the Province of Santa Fé, and the counties of General Pinto, Lincoln, Pehuajó, Trenque Lauquen, Suamini, Coronel Suarez, General La-Madrid, Pringles, and Bahia Blanca, in the Province of Buenos Aires.- A considerable amount of the preferred shares of this line was acquired by the Farquhar Syndicate under a plan of operating Argentine railways. The chief business thus far has been the transport of corn, wheat, oats, flax, and live stock. The road has 45 locomotives, 4 sleeping cars, 20 coaches, and about 1,100 freight cars of various classes. The office in Buenos Aires is located at Calle Cangallo 483; in Bahia Blanca, at Calle Chiclana 214; and in Rosario, Calle Santa Fé 1053.

The Cordoba Central Railway.

This line maintains a service direct from Buenos Aires to Tucuman, through Rosario and Cordoba, reaching also Santiago del Estero, La Madrid, and other important cities. In 1899 it took over the Northwestern Argentine, from Tucuman to La Madrid, and later acquired the Cordoba and Rosario road, a narrow-gauge line of 180 miles from Cordoba to Frontera and controlling the Rafaela Steam Tramway Co., which had been operated at a financial loss. The capital stock of the Cordoba Central is \$79,037,553. The gross receipts of the enterprise for the year ended June 30, 1917, show a small increase over the preceding year, marking a halt in the declining tendency of earnings for the last five years.

The Farquhar Syndicate undertook from January 1, 1913, to manage the Cordoba Central and to increase its traffic receipts by £125,000

per annum until June 30, 1916, by £156,000 per annum until June 30, 1920, by £189,000 per annum until June 30, 1924, and thereafter by £220,000 per annum, the deficiency to be made good in cash, provided that when the total traffic exceeded a fixed sum 80 per cent of the excess should go to the managing syndicate. The ratio of expenses was reduced by this management from 79 per cent to 58.3 per cent for a short time. For the year ended June 30, 1914, the Farquhar Syndicate was liable to the Cordoba Central, on account of its guaranty, in the sum of \$518,755, and upon the cancellation of the guaranty the syndicate turned over to the Cordoba Central Railway 5,000 shares, of 500 francs each, of the French Railway. The syndicate had in the first half of 1913 made a cash payment of \$262,367 to the Cordoba Central to make good the guaranty. In addition the syndicate did actually increase the traffic results of the road, so that the Cordoba Central had every reason to be satisfied with its guaranty.

This railway receives a large amount of traffic from the sugar crop of Tucuman, this being a long-haul traffic which pays the railway approximately \$5 per ton, while the average tonnage of the railway in 1916 was said to pay 1.44 cents per ton mile. In 1916 the company was obliged to ask time for the payment of certain dues in connection with its debentures and notes. The company owns 297 locomotives, 385 coaches, and 7,053 freight cars of various classes, and has 155 stations.

The company has outstanding 4 per cent first debenture stock to the amount of \$38,880,000 and 4½ per cent second debenture stock to the amount of \$23,300,000.

The latest available quotations of the shares of this company upon the London Stock Exchange, July 26, 1917, indicate that the ordinary shares and the first and second preferred shares were sold respectively at 18 per cent, 31 per cent, and 69½ per cent of their par value.

The Central Argentine Railway.

The Central Argentine Railway (Directorate: 3 A Coleman Street, London E. C.) is the principal railway enterprise of northern Argentina. It is a broad-gauge line, and its capitalization for fiscal purposes is \$237,609,365. Its line is from Buenos Aires to Tucuman via Rosario and Cordoba, reaching Santiago del Estero, Pergamino, Villa Maria, Rio Cuarto, Rufino, Santa Fé, Salta, and other important points, and serving 424 stations. It absorbs more than one-half of the railway traffic of the district and its operations may be considered as the index of railway conditions. This road paid 6 per cent on its preferred and ordinary shares from 1910 to 1913, and 5 per cent on both classes of stock in 1914 and 1915, 4 per cent being paid on the ordinary shares in 1916. It has a large traffic in agricultural products, live stock, and wine, and the passenger traffic returns are also excellent. The average freight rate per ton mile is understood to vary around 1.6 cents. The weekly gross traffic returns for the year ended June 30, 1917, aggregate about \$25,452,306, a decrease from the previous year, continuing the declining tendency of the preceding four years. The figures given may be somewhat increased by revenue other than traffic returns, but taken as substantially correct, they indicate a gross return of about \$7,701 per mile

as compared with a gross annual return of \$9,414 per mile for the five-year period ended June 30, 1915.

In defending its proposed increase in rates this line asserts that the average percentage of the carrying charges on the market value of certain commodities are as follows: Corn, 3.75; flax, 2.84; wheat, 3.53; wool, 1.90; hides, 1.7; sugar, 2.12; flour, 2.51; bran, 7.25; salt, 7.32; wire, 1.88; and cement, 7.17.

The stock of this company is listed on the London Stock Exchange and on July 26, 1917, the ordinary stock was quoted at 64½ per cent of par value. The construction of the line is substantial and in accordance with the most advanced railway practice of the world. Covering a wide territory and reaching the most productive districts of Northern Argentina, the Central Argentine is in a position to profit largely by good crops and a return to normal conditions. The territory which it traverses is susceptible of greatly intensified production with the general development of the country. The road has contributed largely to the growth of northern Argentina, anticipating such growth and keeping its facilities up to a standard in advance of requirements. The line is double track from Buenos Aires to Rosario.

Important Part Played by Railroads in Prosperity of Country.

The railroads described, with other foreign-owned railroads of Argentina, have played an important part in importations to the country. All metal for construction, equipment, and upkeep has been imported, and in prosperous years these have formed a relatively large percentage of Argentina's imports. The suspension of building and the retrenchments now in effect, and the substitution of wood fuel for imported coal, have contributed to limit importation into the country, although not affecting customs receipts. The same observation applies to a lesser extent to the river traffic, in which the controlling factor is a British company (Compañía Argentina de Navegación Nicolas Mihanovich, Ltd., 8 Crosby Square, London, E. C.) owning and operating a river fleet of some 350 boats.

A railway of 1-meter gauge from Rosario to Mendoza was projected in 1911 and about 31 miles completed, from Rosario to Pueblo Fuentés. The enterprise failed in 1914, and the following year the completed section was leased for a seven-year period, which enabled the company to offer payment in full to its creditors within four years from the date of the lease. The offer was accepted. No building operations are in progress on this line.

OFFICES OF THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE.

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NEW YORK: 784 Customhouse.
BOSTON: 1801 Customhouse.
CHICAGO: 504 Federal Building.
ST. LOUIS: 402 Third National Bank Building.
NEW ORLEANS: 1020 Hibernia Bank Building.
SAN FRANCISCO: 307 Customhouse.
SEATTLE: 848 Henry Building.

COOPERATIVE OFFICES.

CLEVELAND: Chamber of Commerce.
CINCINNATI: Chamber of Commerce.
CINCINNATI: General Freight Agent, Southern Railway, 96 Ingalls Building.
LOS ANGELES: Chamber of Commerce.
PHILADELPHIA: Chamber of Commerce.
CHATTANOOGA: South American Agent, Southern Railway System.
PORTLAND, OREG.: Chamber of Commerce.
DAYTON: Greater Dayton Association.

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the **Bureau** and its **district and cooperative offices**. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and **state opportunity number**. The **Bureau** does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases. Symbols: * Reported by American consular officers; † Reported by commercial attachés and commercial agents; ‡ Direct inquiries received by the Bureau.

In considering the following "opportunities" special regard should be had to the laws and regulations governing export licenses and trading with the enemy.

Artificial leather.....	25699	Hematite.....	25697
Automobiles, miniature.....	25700	Hosiery.....	25699
Bicycles and tricycles.....	25700	Indigo.....	25696
Boots and shoes.....	25699	Leather.....	25699
Chemical products.....	25698	Oils.....	25698
Cotton and woolen textiles.....	25701	Petroleum.....	25698
Dyes and dyestuffs.....	25698	Silver-plated ware.....	25700
Electrical supplies.....	25694	Skins.....	25702
Hardware.....	25695, 25703	Tanning products.....	25698

25694.*—A man in Chile desires to purchase small dynamos up to 110 volts and up to 50 amperes, electric wires, telephones and supplies, batteries, storage batteries, door bells, electric-light supplies and fixtures, auto lamps, etc., and all supplies for electrical installations. Quotations should be made f. o. b. American port. Payment will be made by cash with order. Goods should be securely packed to withstand rough handling. Correspondence should be in Spanish. Reference.

25695.†—A merchant in France is in the market for all kinds of hardware. Payment will be made by cash. Correspondence should be in French. Reference.

25696.*—A company desires to purchase or secure an agency for the sale of aniline dyes and synthetic indigo. Quotations should be made f. o. b. coast port with estimate on ocean charges. Payment will be made by sight draft against documents or 60 days credit. Correspondence may be in English. References.

25697.†—A wholesale jewelry firm in Cuba is in the market for about 3,000 carats of hematite, the stones ranging in size from one-half carat to four carats each.

25698.*—A firm in France desires to purchase or secure an agency for the sale of chemical products, dyestuffs, tanning products, petroleum, and oils. Payment will be made against documents. Correspondence should be in French. Reference.

25699.*—An agency is desired by a man in Italy for the sale of hosiery, silk stockings, lisle thread and cotton stockings, all kinds of boots and shoes, uppers, leather of all kinds, and artificial leather. Catalogues and samples should be submitted wherever possible. Correspondence should be in French or Italian. Reference.

25700.†—A firm in Cuba desires to represent American manufacturers and exporters of silver-plated hollow ware, cheap lines of silver deposit on glass and china, bicycles, tricycles, and miniature automobiles for children. References.

25701.*—A man in France desires to represent American manufacturers and exporters of cotton and woolen textiles for their sale in France and Spain. Correspondence should be in French. References.

25702.*—A merchant in Italy is in the market for heavy skins, cow, calf, chrome, and white calf skins. Samples should be submitted. Correspondence should be in French or Italian. Reference.

25703.*—Catalogues and price lists are desired by a merchant in Madagascar from American manufacturers and exporters of general hardware. Payment will be made by cash against documents in New York.

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No. 254 Washington, D. C., Tuesday, October 30

1917

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SCARCITY OF MEXICAN CURRENCY.

[Consul G. C. Woodward, Matamoros, Oct. 20.]

The prohibition of the exportation of gold from the United States, coupled with the recent Mexican decree that all customs duties must be paid in either American gold or Mexican currency, is felt locally in the difficulty of securing the necessary moneys for the payment of duties.

Owing to the scarcity of Mexican money, American money being almost entirely used along the border, it was necessary for an American hide exporter to pay from 2 to 3 per cent on \$8,000—required for the payment of export duties on a shipment of hides exported to the United States.

DOMINICAN TOBACCO FOR HOLLAND.

[Consul Arthur McLean, Puerto Plata, Sept. 22.]

A vessel of the Royal Dutch West Indian Steamship Co. recently called in Puerto Plata and loaded 800 sacks of coffee (132,000 pounds) and 15,000 seroons of tobacco (1,750,000 pounds) for Amsterdam, Holland.

This vessel was the first Dutch steamer to come here this year, although several vessels of that nationality called in Puerto Plata since the beginning of the European war. Prior to the war almost all of the Dominican tobacco crop, which averages about 175,000 seroons annually, was shipped to Bremen or Hamburg and thence distributed to Holland and the other consuming markets of Europe.

AUSTRALIAN RESTRICTIONS ON PERFUMERY AND SPIRITS.

The Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce has received information from Mr. Ernest Hall, official representative in New York of the Department of Trade and Customs of Australia, that the Australian import prohibitions on perfumery and perfumed spirits, including bay rum, have been modified. Perfumery may be imported

during 1917-18 to the extent of 50 per cent of the value of the imports during 1916-17. Quantity rather than value is the basis for the allowance of perfumed spirits and bay rum. These goods will be permitted during 1917-18 to the extent of 50 per cent of the quantity imported during the preceding year.

A copy of the official list of goods under import prohibition in Australia was given in COMMERCE REPORTS for October 6. Other issues containing references to the prohibitions and modifications in favor of certain imports are those of August 14, and 15, October 1, 3, 5, and 12.

FAR EASTERN MARKET FOR PERFUMERY.

[London Chamber of Commerce Journal.]

In the Malay Peninsula, where there is a large trade done in perfumery and cosmetics, British manufacturers, in pre-war days, found Belgium, Germany, and Japan their strongest competitors. It may be that Belgium occupies a false position, for its principal port—Antwerp—was one of the outlets of German trade; and, since the Straits Settlements statistics, from which the following information is derived, record merely the country of shipment and not the country of origin, it is not always possible to obtain reliable facts as to the real trade of any one country.

For the last four years the imports of perfumery and cosmetics into the Straits Settlements were valued: In 1913, at \$502,505; in 1914, at \$323,360; in 1915, at \$405,635; in 1916, at \$596,260. In the case of 1916 there may have been some overlapping, and the increase is likely to be more of value than of quantity; but it is certain that the trade was a substantial one, in spite of the continuance of the war, and it will be interesting to see from the detailed statistics of 1916, when they are available, what share of the increase has fallen to Japan and other Asiatic countries. As it is, comparison can be made for three years only, as below:

Imported from—	1913	1914	1915
United States.....	\$21,040	\$13,585	\$38,220
Austria-Hungary.....	1,715	1,590	.....
Belgium.....	135,500	65,065	.....
British India.....	11,520	9,685	8,800
France.....	24,070	16,496	117,365
Germany.....	53,680	25,865	.....
Hongkong.....	30,835	33,325	45,710
Japan.....	80,705	64,065	78,925
Netherlands.....	12,855	5,990	8,390
United Kingdom.....	125,815	86,090	104,335
Other countries.....	4,710	1,625	3,880
Total.....	502,505	323,360	405,635

Apart from the elimination of Belgium, Germany, and Austria-Hungary from the table in 1915, the most remarkable feature is the jump taken by France into first place. The United States also shows a substantial increase. As cosmetics and perfumery are luxuries, and the absorption of luxuries gives some indication of the prosperity of a people, it may be deduced that the Malay Peninsula is prospering and constitutes a good market for this class of goods. The Malay States and Netherlands India take the greater portion of the re-exports from the Straits Settlements.

RUSSIAN LAW REGULATING RENTS.

[Vice Consul Feltz Cole, Petrograd, Sept. 7.]

The Russian Temporary Government has issued a law regulating rents and establishing the following principles:

The normal rent is considered to be that rent which was paid before August 1, 1914. To this may be added:

(1) Fifteen per cent in houses that were rented before 1912 and 25 per cent in houses rented later than 1912.

(2) The increase in the cost of house service (yardmen, door men, and janitors), as well as the increased cost of carrying out ashes, garbage, cleaning cesspools, and removing snow. The landlord may also be reimbursed in special cases for painting, papering, and alterations.

(3) The increased cost of fuel, whether the same is furnished in kind or whether steam heating is used.

Severer restrictions are placed on the landlord's right of eviction, which is practically impossible if rent is paid and order is preserved. The municipal government is invited to establish special rent courts to arbitrate and decide disputed questions as to rents, fuel, prices, etc. These courts must be invoked under penalty before access is had to justices of the peace, to whom appeal may be taken by either side. Special rent inspectors may also be appointed by the city government.

This law does not apply to hotels nor lodging houses of more than 10 rooms. Prices for these houses may be established by the city government. No contracts may be made by private agreement establishing rents other than those provided for by the methods established by this law.

SILK AND COTTON THREAD IN NEW ZEALAND.

[Consul General Alfred A. Winslow, Auckland.]

Stocks of cotton and silk thread in New Zealand are below normal, notwithstanding the increased value of imports shown in the following table:

Imported from—	1914	1915	1916
United States.....	\$22,448	\$18,138	\$38,158
France.....	478	462	515
Germany.....	2,321	302	102
United Kingdom.....	334,966	405,597	547,264
All other countries.....	3,417	2,818	2,953
Total.....	363,593	427,317	588,992

Heretofore British manufacturers have supplied most of the cotton thread, while the American manufacturers seem to take the lead in silk thread; but British houses are not accepting new orders for delivery during the war, and stocks of cotton thread are below normal. Both silk and cotton threads enter free of duty from all countries, except for a 1 per cent war tax.

Practically all of this business is done through the general importers of dry goods, whose addresses are forwarded [this list may be obtained upon application from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district and cooperative offices by referring to file No. 93608], to whom it would be well to send samples, price lists, etc.

WHISKY PRICES INCREASE IN SCOTLAND.

[Vice Consul E. R. Pottle, Dundee, Oct. 8.]

There are indications that there will be a general rise in the price of whisky in Scotland in the near future, and a few of the leading firms have already advanced the price of their proprietary and bulk spirits.

By Government order the release of whisky from bond was reduced to 50 per cent on the basis of the 1916 output, and it was provided that the liquor must not be sold above the strength of 20 under proof, while retailers were permitted to sell it at 50 under proof. The output of 50 per cent from bond was divided into two periods, 25 per cent being released during the first six months and an equal quantity in the second six months of the excise year. Prices rose rapidly, and as time went on and the effects of the restriction became more apparent, many retailers are reported to have charged as high as \$2.50 per bottle. The general price of bulk whisky was 18 cents per glass, Perth being the only city in Scotland which sold below this figure. Some time before the first excise period came to a close, on September 30, many retailers had completely disposed of their entire stock of whisky, notwithstanding the fact that they were permitted to dispose of the liquor at 50 under proof.

Increased Consumption During the Holiday Season.

The period that opened on October 1 includes the Christmas and New Year holidays, during which period the consumption of whisky in Scotland increases materially, and the opinion of the trade was that, in view of these facts, the opening of the period for the release of the second 25 per cent quantity for the year would synchronize with an advance of prices on the part of the wholesale dealers, who practically control the market.

It is reported that one of the leading firms in this district has advanced the price of bottled whisky by \$1.25 per case of 2 gallons, the cost per case now being \$16.05. It has also advanced the price of bulk whisky by 60 cents per gallon.

Other leading wholesale firms, however, have issued statements to the effect that they do not intend increasing their prices at present, but it is not unlikely that circumstances will compel a general rise in prices within a short time. Should this prove to be the case, the retailers will have no option but to increase the price to the consumer to 20 cents per glass.

REAL ESTATE BOOM AT CHUNGKING.

[Consul George C. Hanson, Chungking, China, Sept. 1.]

For the last two months Chungking has been witnessing a boom in land investments. Many foreign firms have purchased large tracts on the side of the river across from the native city and are planning to build extensively thereon. The Chinese Maritime Customs have also secured a valuable stretch along the river front and it is expected that the main customs buildings will be erected thereupon. As a result of the feverish buying, Chinese landowners are demanding exorbitant prices for their property, believing that the foreigner will pay whatever price is demanded. It is expected that there will be a reaction soon and that prices will fall to their true level.

TRACTORS GAINING POPULARITY IN HAWAII.

[A. P. Taylor, correspondent, Honolulu.]

Caterpillar tractors have become an important factor on Hawaiian sugar plantations. The majority of the owners who purchased one or two tractors as experiments have followed quickly with orders for more, and practically every manager who mentions that his plantation is equipped with tractors adds that "more have been ordered."

Pioneer Plantation is an example of the rapidity of motorization of hauling and utility vehicles, as a result of which animals are becoming a minor factor in the development of the estate, which is on the island of Maui, near the town of Lahaina. The manager says the tractors and trucks are savers of time, money, and trouble, and there are fewer accidents. With two caterpillars and four men he is accomplishing the same work that formerly required 40 mules and 20 men, and the work is being done more quickly and safely.

Tasks Performed by Aid of Motor.

Wailuku Plantation, island of Maui, has two caterpillars doing excellent work—a 70-horsepower machine easily accomplishing 30 acres a day with a chain harrow, while a 40-horsepower tractor is being used to haul cane cars over the fields on a portable track to the main-line tracks. Moving bowlders, heretofore too great a task for mules, is easily done with tractors.

It is estimated that there are now 136 tractors of different types on the 45 sugar plantations. In the past 18 months 80 caterpillars have been imported from the American mainland for use on plantations. The most popular caterpillar so far has been the 45 horsepower.

Agents for practically all makes of caterpillar and other tractors manufactured on the American mainland are active in Honolulu, while large agencies conduct business for the manufacturers of every make of pleasure automobile. Practically all deals in tractors and autos are made through the local agents.

[An article on tractors in the Hawaiian Islands was published in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for Aug. 7, 1917.]

RECENT CANADIAN IRON AND STEEL PRODUCTION.

[Consul Felix S. S. Johnson, Kingston, Ontario, Oct. 11.]

The production of pig iron in Canada during the first six months of 1917 amounted to 586,998 net tons, compared with 562,097 tons during the corresponding period of 1916.

Furnaces were in blast at Sydney and North Bay, Nova Scotia; Hamilton, Port Colborne, Sault Ste. Marie, and Deseronto, Ontario (in this consular district). The Deseronto furnace started in May, having been idle during the first four months. Small quantities of pig iron were also produced in electric furnaces from scrap steel at Orillia, Ontario, and Montreal, Quebec.

The production of steel ingots and direct castings during the first six months of the year amounted to 836,149 net tons, compared with 589,553 tons during the first six months of 1916.

The production of steel in electric furnaces was 18,797 tons during the first six months of 1917, and 19,639 tons throughout 1916.

DECLINE IN CHINESE JUNK TRADE.

[Consul General George E. Anderson, Hongkong, Sept. 13.]

A feature of the shipping and transportation situation in South China which is having a marked effect upon the import and export trade is the destruction that is being wrought in the Chinese junk trade by brigandage, which has so long afflicted South China generally, but particularly the Pearl River delta. It has increased local freights, and also has resulted in actual failure of transportation service for goods in and out of the country. Practically all of the commissioners of customs in the South China ports in their last annual published reports refer to the manner in which the Chinese junk is giving way to foreign-style steam vessels, because the latter by reason of foreign protection or their ability to escape avoid many of the results of the interference referred to.

Reports from Important Centers.

In his report for 1916 the commissioner at Canton shows that the value of the junk trade passing through the offices under his control in that year was only about 36,000,000 taels, instead of the 39,000,000 taels of the preceding year. The decrease, he stated, was due entirely to the cause referred to. The commissioner at Lappa describes conditions at length and indicates that most of the loss of trade of the port, which amounted to about 25 per cent, as compared with that of 1915, was due to this one cause. The commissioner at Kongmun reports that the number of junks entered and cleared coastwise at Kongmun in 1916 was only 1,811, compared with 4,540 in 1915. Samshui has a similar report.

Junks are simply being driven out of the trade, and where the trade is not killed entirely it is now being handled only by steam vessels at a higher cost, and, of course, with that much more of a drain upon the supply of steam vessels for other purposes. Freights have advanced accordingly, and costs to American importers or to Chinese importers of American goods have advanced in the same way.

Changes Thought to be Permanent.

Aside from the paralysis of industry and production, as well as interference with commerce which this entails, nearly all the customs commissioners in their annual reports intimate that the trade which has thus been driven from junks will never return to native-style vessels, and there is little doubt that most of it will remain with the foreign-style vessels even after present abnormal conditions have passed. This probably means better service in some respects, but it unquestionably means increased freight rates upon many commodities now shipped to the United States which heretofore have found their way to the seaboard at Hongkong by native trade routes and native vessels. Hereafter they will be handled through the Chinese Maritime Customs and the foreign-trade routes, proceeding thus along safer but probably more expensive lines.

Some of the larger Chinese vessels that were used in the delta waters in foreign-trade service and have been driven from their former business by brigandage have undertaken coasting and short over-sea voyages. Some of these southern ports show an increase in Chinese-style tonnage trading to Hainan, Pakhoi, Kwangchow, and

Indo-Chinese ports. Vessels of this character, however, can not long survive in this coasting trade, and it seems more likely that as they disappear fewer vessels of their style and nature will appear to take their places.

LONDON DRESSMAKERS IMPROVE WORKING CONDITIONS.

[Consul Harry A. McBride, London, England, Oct. 3.]

An organized effort is now being made by the dressmaking, ladies' tailoring, and millinery establishments centered in the West End of London to attract more young girls into the workrooms. Greatly improved conditions have been adopted by over 60 of the leading firms, and a booklet setting forth the advantages which the trades now offer has been prepared for circulation among the parents of girls, when the latter reach the age for leaving school. During the past few years the London dressmaking establishments have experienced a steady decline in the number of girls entering the dressmaking workrooms as learners, and the matter of securing a sufficient number of employees has become one of considerable difficulty since the outbreak of the war, when munition work and other similar occupations have attracted such a very large percentage of the available supplies of female labor.

A standard commencing wage is now offered by the dressmaking trade, with an advance after six months. A 48-hour week has been decided upon, with payment for all Bank Holidays and also during a week's summer vacation. It is stated that intelligent girls can qualify to become forewomen, earning \$1,200 or more per year. Girls between the ages of 14 and 16 will be required to attend the London County Council Trade Training School for three hours a day on two days a week during business hours, and such attendance will count as part of their employment.

These new conditions have been approved by the London County Council education authorities and by the Ministry of Labor, and it is thought that the advantages offered will lead to a solution of the difficulty now experienced in obtaining labor in these trades. Workrooms are also being made more attractive and the newer establishments now have modern, well-lighted, and well-ventilated rooms.

NEW BED FOR THE PARALYZED.

[Alfred Nutting, clerk, American consulate general, London, England, Oct. 9.]

The great difficulty in handling a patient suffering from spinal wounds, either for the purpose of attending to the wound or to re-make his bed, is without causing him much suffering during the operation. With this end in view a new bed has been constructed. This bed has surrounding it, close to the edge of the mattress, a rectangular framework of hollow metal piping. The parallel sides are connected by broad bands of webbing stretched across the top of the mattress; the patient lies on these bands. The short sides of the framework of the bed—that is, at the head and foot—are also connected by a geared wheel having a vertical steel post. By turning the handle at the foot or head of the bed, the framework with the patient lying on the webbing is lifted off the mattress while his position remains unchanged.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE SOUTHERN PHILIPPINES.

[Consul DeWitt C. Poole, Jr.]

Considerable American and foreign capital has been invested in the southern Philippines (department of Mindanao-Sulu) during the past decade, and despite the war there is a present outlook that still more money will be spent and that a noteworthy development of this rich and virgin country may be expected. The chief investment fields are in the production of hemp, coconuts, lumber, cattle, and now rubber, heretofore neglected because a scientific investigator decided some years ago—erroneously, it has since been proved—that the region was ill-suited to that crop. A rubber-growing project at present under consideration calls for an investment of \$25,000,000.

Rubber Growing a Practical Success.

When it was decided, scientifically, that rubber could not profitably be grown in Mindanao, a large American rubber company established its plantation in the Dutch East Indies instead. A smaller enterprise persisted nevertheless, and its success has revealed the entirely erroneous character of the scientist's findings. This company now has 72,000 Para rubber trees growing on the Island of Basilan, of which 22,000 have come into bearing and yield from 80 to 90 kilos of rubber per day. A leading rubber expert visited Mindanao in March, 1917. He has stated that he is favorably impressed by the rubber-growing possibilities of the region. A well-known American rubber company has already asked the governor of the department to furnish particular data.

Two American plantations in eastern Mindanao (Province of Davao) have about 90,000 rubber trees of the *Castilloa* variety. *Castilloa* rubber also is being planted by the Government in reforestation. A large Japanese hemp enterprise in Davao conducts a chain of stores, trading supplies to the natives for *Castilloa* rubber and other jungle products.

While rubber is one of the most promising plantation products of Mindanao, just now the leading and best paying commodity is hemp. Growers are realizing prices four and five times those which they found profitable a few years ago. The finest grades of Davao hemp command as much as 100 pesos (\$50 gold) per picul (133½ pounds). This phenomenal advance is attributed to war demands, the reduction in the output of sisal in Yucatan and similar fibers in what was formerly German East Africa, and new uses for the finer grades of hemp in the manufacture of textile fabrics.

Japanese in Hemp-Development Work.

The Japanese have been foremost in developing new uses for hemp fiber in textile manufacture, and Japan is the leading market for the finer Philippine grades. As the best of these are produced in Mindanao, Japanese enterprise has interested itself especially in that region. Japanese buyers are said to be offering contracts for hemp deliveries over long periods of years at about the current high prices, and one of the leading hemp-growing enterprises in Davao is supported entirely by Japanese capital. This enterprise is reported to own or control about 15,000 acres of land in Davao and to have 2,000,000 "hills" of hemp growing. To safeguard the hemp against

possible drought this company recently spent a large sum of money in irrigation works which normally will not be used at all. Another Japanese enterprise has about 45,000 hills of hemp.

The most conspicuously successful hemp plantation in Davao is the sole property of an American citizen who was formerly in the Philippine civil service. It embraces about 2,200 acres, on which there are 160,000 hills of hemp, besides 48,000 *Castilloa* rubber trees and 16,000 coconut trees. Seven other large American plantations in Davao have growing a total of 700,000 hills of hemp.

The hemp tree resembles very closely the banana in appearance. Two or more stalks grow to a "hill," this term being used as in the United States with reference to corn. Fiber may be stripped when the trees are about two years old.

Large Profits in Coconuts.

The position of hemp as the leading and most profitable plantation product for the time being is due in part to transient war conditions. It is felt that the coconut will probably play the foremost permanent rôle in the agricultural development of Mindanao. The coconut requires about seven years to come into bearing. It has many products, but the chief is copra, the dried meat of the nut. A high-grade vegetable oil is expressed from this meat, and the residue is used for cattle feed and fertilizer. Two large oil-expressing plants are now in operation in the Philippines—that of the Philippine Vegetable Oil Co. at Manila and that of the Visayan Refining Co. at Cebu. The greater part of the copra, however, is shipped away from the islands unpressed. Before the war Marseille was the leading market. San Francisco and New York are lately assuming greater importance, especially as the use of coconut oil, formerly confined for the most part to soap making, has become important in the manufacture of food products.

With an assured profitable market for copra, Mindanao looks forward to substantial and rapid development of its coconut plantations. The output of copra has been large for some time past. Before the war shipments were made directly from Zamboanga to Marseille. The scientific growing of coconut trees on large plantations has been taken up within the past decade and many thousand trees will come into bearing during the next few years. Most of the Davao hemp enterprises have plantings of coconuts as well, possibly as many as 100,000 trees in all. There are also coconut plantations under way or immediately projected in the Provinces of Agusan, Cotabato, Lanao, and Zamboanga. One plantation in Lanao, situated at Baras, near Malabang, has 55,000 growing trees.

In the Zamboanga district the largest single producer of copra is the Government penal institution at San Ramon. The rubber enterprise on the island of Basilan, already mentioned, has 31,000 coconut trees 5 years old. Other plantations near Zamboanga will bring 50,000 or more trees into bearing by 1920 or 1921.

Normal Production—Timber Resources.

The scientific cultivation of coconuts is so new that specific data are hard to obtain, and are more or less undependable, but it is estimated that in Mindanao three full-bearing trees will produce at least a picul (133½ pounds) of copra a year, and copra should

net the grower at current prices, which are depressed by the scarcity of ocean bottoms, not less than \$5 gold a picul. A well-conducted plantation when brought into full bearing should represent a capital investment of not more than \$5 gold per tree, and most of those in Mindanao will be brought through the development stage for much less than that. The magnitude of the possible profits is obvious.

Several lumber mills in Mindanao had attained great prosperity before the war. They suffered severely by the curtailment of ocean shipping, but the chief of these plants have now resumed operations, including two important companies in the Zamboanga district, a large British enterprise in Lanao, and two companies in Cotabato, which are backed by one man, an American.

Timber resources are varied and extensive. They furnish hardwoods suitable for interior decorating and finishing; ordinary construction lumber, of which one mill is reported to be turning out 40,000 to 50,000 board feet per day; and timbers for piling and railroad ties. Much lumber is consumed locally. Of the exports the higher grades go principally to the United States and the lower grades to the China coast. There are extensive mangrove tidal flats along the Mindanao coasts, containing a great quantity of easily accessible third-group or relatively soft woods which, it is surmised, would be an economical source of cellulose.

Jungle Products in Mindanao's Trade—Cattle Raising.

Jungle products are an important part of Mindanao's present and potential trade. They include gutta percha, gum copal, and an oil known in Mindanao as "biao" and in Manila as "lumbang." In quality it approaches Chinese tung oil and is said to be the nearest substitute for linseed oil. The "biao" tree is being planted by the Government in reforestation, along with the *Castilloa* rubber tree. An official survey is now being made of the gutta percha resources of Mindanao. In 1916 about 30,000 kilos of gutta percha and more than 1,000,000 kilos of gum copal were shipped out of the Philippines.

Gold occurs in Mindanao, and placer mining is carried on in a desultory way. Recently important discoveries of mineral oil have been made. There are large deposits of sulphur.

The Philippines import considerable quantities of Australian frozen and chilled meats. These imports are decreasing concurrently with the extension of cattle raising in the islands, which is especially marked in Mindanao. There are large herds in the Province of Davao. An important American company is developing a large cattle ranch in the northeastern Province of Bukidnon and has disclosed tentative plans for the erection of a modern slaughtering and refrigerating plant on the Bukidnon coast. The usual type of beef animal is a cross between the native cow and a pure-blood humped Indian bull. The pure-blood Indian cattle have a high immunity to rinderpest.

Outside Investments Favored.

Further investments in rubber, hemp, coconuts, lumber, cattle raising, and possibly mining and oil promise an acceleration of the substantial development that already is taking place in Mindanao. General farming and other industries will also play a part. Lying between the fifth and ninth parallels of north latitude, the region

enjoys a tropical climate and abundant rainfall. It is outside of the typhoon or cyclone belt. Mindanao proper, which is one of the larger islands of the world, is sparsely settled. Land in plenty is to be obtained from the Government at nominal prices. Labor conditions are satisfactory. Where the local supply is not adequate, natives may be brought from the middle and northern islands under arrangements with the governor. The American and foreign enterprises now operating employ about 5,000 natives and 760 Americans and foreigners. The governor is, moreover, disposed to promote the investment of outside capital, and inquiries addressed to him at Zamboanga receive his personal attention.

Statistics of Land Ownership.

To determine the present extent of outside enterprise the governor recently caused to be gathered in his department statistics of the land held by Americans and foreigners and the proportion of this which is under cultivation. Estimates were necessary in some cases, and the figures arrived at are believed to be an understatement. These have not heretofore been published. The total area held by Americans and foreigners at the beginning of 1917 is given as 131,636 acres, of which 22 per cent was under cultivation. Americans held 84,254 acres; Spaniards, 19,817; Japanese, 12,342; Chinese, 10,678; English, 2,529; Swiss, 1,507; Turks, 267; French, 148; and Arabs, 94. The cultivation of less than one-quarter of this land is explained by pointing to the use of large areas for cattle grazing. Land so used is classed as uncultivated. Of the total of 84,254 acres held by Americans about 17,000 are used for pasture. The total area of Mindanao is about 34,000 square miles.

[An article on agriculture in the Philippines was published in **COMMERCE REPORTS** for July 3, 1917.]

WOOD FOR FUEL IN HOLLAND.

[Consul Frank W. Mahin, Amsterdam, Sept. 19.]

At present and until October 1 wood for fuel is not and has not been rationed like coal in this country.

Before the war little wood was used as fuel in Holland except for starting coal fires, and prices were moderate. Now it is being used whenever possible, but many stoves and fireplaces are specially constructed for coal. Though the supply of wood is relatively large at present, prices are very high. The wood is sawed and split into pieces 6 to 8 inches long and 3 or 4 thick, which are sold for the equivalent of about \$28 a long ton for hard wood; for pine, about \$14.

Everybody with means and storage space is now laying in supplies for the winter from the present stocks, and therefore, with the rationing to begin October 1, the deforestation will soon be much reduced, if not entirely stopped.

Profits of a Venezuelan Sugar Company.

Consul Homer Brett reports from La Guaira, under date of October 14, that the Central Tacarigua, located near Maracay, Venezuela, at the close of its first year of operation reports a net profit of 455,718 bolivars, or 22.73 per cent upon its capital of 2,000,000 bolivars.

GERMANY'S PRE-WAR EXPORTS OF SHEET IRON.

In response to numerous requests for information regarding the exports of sheet iron from Germany the Research Division of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce has prepared a table of such shipments in 1913. This table is presented below. Its 10 subdivisions show how varied was Germany's trade before the war.

Taking the two largest customers of Germany for each class of material the following interesting points are brought out by these statistics: For rough, scaled, straightened, dressed, or varnished sheets and plates of iron and iron alloys 5 or more millimeters (millimeter=0.03937 inch) thick the Netherlands was Germany's best customer in 1913, with the United Kingdom ranking second. For the same sorts of plates 1 to 5 millimeters thick the United Kingdom was the best buyer, with British India next in importance. For the same sorts of plates less than 1 millimeter thick Austria-Hungary ranked first, followed by Switzerland.

France led in purchases of ground, polished, lacquered, browned, or artificially oxidized plates, covered or not with a shiny coat of oxide, and the United Kingdom was second. Of the tinned plates exported from Germany in 1913 Austria-Hungary took the largest share, followed by Switzerland. In galvanized sheets the Netherlands ranked first as a buyer and Argentina second. Roumania dominated the trade in plates coated with lead or other base metals or alloys of base metals, taking 3,125,200 kilos out of total exports of 4,999,300 kilos; Switzerland ranked second.

Switzerland was also Germany's second best customer for corrugated sheets, Argentina leading in this class. The Netherlands took nearly half of the grooved or embossed sheets and plates exported by Germany in 1913 (with the United Kingdom ranking second), and was also the leading buyer of pressed, studded, flanged, welded, rounded, drilled, or cored sheet iron. Of the latter class of sheet iron Belgium took the second largest share.

Exports by Classes and Principal Buyers.

The quantities and the value of the German sheet iron taken by other leading countries in 1913—the quantities being expressed in kilos of 2.2046 pounds and the value in American currency converted at the normal rate of 23.8 cents—appear in the appended table:

Sheets and plates.	Kilos.	Value.	Sheets and plates.	Kilos.	Value.
Rough, scaled, straightened, dressed, or varnished:			Rough, scaled, straightened, dressed, or varnished—Continued.		
Of 5 millimeters or more in thickness			Of 5 millimeters or more in thickness—Continued.		
Belgium.....	461,251,200	\$14,551,082	Finland.....	3,601,400	\$110,194
Denmark.....	24,468,300	801,822	Sweden.....	14,274,600	454,580
France.....	20,909,600	656,166	Switzerland.....	14,329,400	502,418
Greece.....	7,608,800	315,826	Serbia.....	405,000	12,138
United Kingdom.....	392,000	11,900	Spain.....	3,044,400	110,670
Italy.....	110,466,900	3,418,870	Turkey.....	1,031,000	31,892
Netherlands.....	9,952,200	352,954	British South Africa.....	1,202,400	42,126
Norway.....	130,185,700	4,016,250	Dutch East Africa.....	555,800	18,336
Austria-Hungary.....	24,004,700	728,042	British India, n.e.s.....	12,558,000	363,902
Portugal.....	2,330,300	118,286	China.....	5,318,700	153,966
Roumania.....	1,159,500	41,412	Japan.....	31,281,100	928,200
Russia.....	5,517,800	188,496			
	4,673,600	185,402			

Sheets and plates.	Kilos.	Value.	Sheets and plates.	Kilos.	Value.
Rough, scaled, straightened, dressed, or varnished—Contd.			Ground, polished, lacquered, browned, or artificially oxidized, covered or not with a shiny coat of oxide—Con.		
Of 5 millimeters or more in thickness—Continued.			Switzerland.....	51,500	\$10,948
Dutch India, n. e. s.....	2,676,200	\$86,156	United States.....	66,300	18,326
Argentina.....	8,928,000	264,656	Tin plates.....	759,700	85,442
Brazil.....	2,128,000	66,640	United Kingdom.....	89,400	12,852
Canada.....	3,065,200	91,868	Netherlands.....	119,300	11,662
Chile.....	2,273,000	68,068	Austria-Hungary.....	197,900	19,040
Mexico.....	365,700	12,614	Switzerland.....	136,300	14,994
United States.....	766,000	23,086	Galvanized.....	21,787,800	1,275,680
Australian Commonwealth.....	8,849,800	277,508	Belgium.....	700,200	37,842
Egypt.....	1,301,300	39,508	Denmark.....	1,422,800	87,584
Of more than 1 and up to 5 millimeters in thickness.....	108,132,700	3,873,926	United Kingdom.....	202,200	13,566
Belgium.....	2,653,300	105,910	Italy.....	214,100	12,376
Denmark.....	3,814,200	155,890	Netherlands.....	3,947,500	214,438
France.....	2,585,300	94,962	Norway.....	569,300	32,130
United Kingdom.....	27,124,000	881,790	Austria-Hungary.....	155,300	12,376
Italy.....	2,104,100	137,564	Roumania.....	145,700	9,996
Netherlands.....	7,668,200	267,036	Russia.....	253,400	16,422
Norway.....	1,810,000	61,880	Switzerland.....	2,841,800	185,402
Austria-Hungary.....	1,542,700	104,482	Spain.....	346,600	19,516
Portugal.....	637,900	22,134	British India, n. e. s.....	668,600	35,700
Roumania.....	317,200	32,844	China.....	192,300	10,710
Russia.....	2,062,400	116,858	Dutch India, n. e. s.....	2,197,100	134,946
Finland.....	563,800	23,086	Argentina.....	6,423,100	297,500
Sweden.....	1,480,600	49,504	Brazil.....	764,200	48,076
Switzerland.....	8,217,600	330,820	Colombia.....	202,200	17,850
Spain.....	1,581,300	57,596	Coated with lead or other base metals or alloys of base metals.....	4,999,300	456,246
Turkey.....	831,200	27,608	France.....	20,800	3,332
Egypt.....	785,600	24,900	Netherlands.....	161,300	12,852
British South Africa.....	484,100	16,184	Roumania.....	3,125,200	262,276
British India, n. e. s.....	19,764,100	629,034	Russia.....	195,100	29,036
China.....	1,673,600	59,976	Switzerland.....	937,200	64,736
Japan.....	6,701,100	235,282	Austria-Hungary.....	94,700	17,136
Dutch India, n. e. s.....	1,045,000	38,794	United States.....	68,100	19,992
Argentina.....	3,586,400	110,194	United Kingdom.....	131,600	20,468
Brazil.....	2,072,400	73,542	Corrugated.....	7,529,900	443,632
Canada.....	593,900	16,660	Belgium.....	123,300	6,902
Chile.....	554,700	19,040	Netherlands.....	563,900	30,702
Australian Commonwealth.....	4,040,400	121,142	Roumania.....	213,100	14,518
Of 1 millimeter or less in thickness.....	41,389,600	2,380,476	Russia.....	210,200	14,280
Belgium.....	673,300	40,222	Switzerland.....	605,900	38,794
Denmark.....	1,465,900	80,920	Turkey.....	23,300	2,380
France.....	1,405,000	78,778	Dutch East Africa.....	105,100	6,902
United Kingdom.....	1,296,200	52,122	Dutch India, n. e. s.....	740,100	42,126
Italy.....	4,301,200	298,076	Argentina.....	2,703,100	153,748
Netherlands.....	898,100	47,124	Brazil.....	350,700	22,372
Norway.....	648,700	36,890	Colombia.....	309,500	19,992
Austria-Hungary.....	6,968,600	460,530	Mexico.....	17,700	714
Roumania.....	1,146,200	66,878	Grooved or with embossed surface.....	4,546,300	141,848
Russia.....	5,418,700	354,858	United Kingdom.....	751,900	21,420
Sweden.....	1,707,400	102,578	Netherlands.....	2,101,500	64,736
Switzerland.....	5,654,000	377,706	Sheet iron, except that specified above, pressed, studded, flanged, welded, rounded, drilled, or cored.....	13,641,600	1,001,980
Serbia.....	144,200	6,188	Belgium.....	2,138,300	135,184
Spain.....	359,000	18,564	Bulgaria.....	193,900	16,660
British India, n. e. s.....	4,968,600	192,066	Denmark.....	370,300	31,654
Japan.....	1,530,100	63,546	France.....	550,500	48,790
Dutch India, n. e. s.....	1,169,300	43,078	United Kingdom.....	899,100	77,112
Argentina.....	400,700	15,708	Italy.....	827,000	69,496
Australian Commonwealth.....	365,400	15,232	Netherlands.....	3,350,200	239,190
Ground, polished, lacquered, browned, or artificially oxidized, covered or not with a shiny coat of oxide.....	1,094,300	245,854	Norway.....	219,300	22,134
Denmark.....	51,600	14,513	Austria-Hungary.....	744,300	55,930
France.....	252,500	55,454	Roumania.....	138,200	11,186
United Kingdom.....	168,200	41,174	Russia.....	387,000	41,412
Italy.....	103,700	17,612	Finland.....	364,000	21,420
Netherlands.....	36,300	5,950	Sweden.....	262,800	20,230
Norway.....	6,700	1,190	Switzerland.....	1,047,500	75,684
Austria-Hungary.....	60,100	19,516	Spain.....	173,400	12,138
Russia.....	143,100	36,176	British India, n. e. s.....	746,000	28,798
			Dutch India, n. e. s.....	260,400	19,278

HOUSING PROBLEM AT DUNFERMLINE.

[Consul H. D. Van Sant, Dunfermline, Scotland, Sept. 26.]

It can safely be stated that the housing problem has never been so acute in the history of Dunfermline as at the present time. Rents have risen rapidly during the past three years in the older part of the city, the advance over normal times being anywhere from 50 to 100 per cent. An ordinary middle-class dwelling renting a few years ago at \$150 a year would, if obtainable now, readily bring \$250 to \$300, and perhaps a premium as an inducement to obtain first option. As indicating the demand for houses in older Dunfermline there were 74 seekers for one house advertised in one insertion of a local paper.

It is said that if 1,000 houses were to be built immediately in the town proper they all could be filled with tenants within a month. But there is no building of new houses in the older part of Dunfermline, and until the high cost of building material is reduced or a new and larger supply is imported from abroad few dwellings will be erected.

Garden City of Rosyth.

At the garden city of Rosyth, the new addition of Dunfermline, now located within the boundaries of the royal burg some 4 miles distant from the older town, housing conditions have become so acute that the Admiralty and city authorities have taken the matter in hand most energetically. Vacant fields have been converted into an extensive town-planning scheme, and where farming lands existed two or three years ago the Rosyth Garden City addition to Dunfermline has sprung into being. This new town will probably contain 10,000 or 15,000 inhabitants in the near future, and, externally, it gives promise of being an attractive and picturesque part of Greater Dunfermline, the old town being built on the historic Scotch lines of architecture while Rosyth is distinctively English.

To meet the extraordinary demand for workingmen's homes at Rosyth it is said that about 2,000 houses have already been constructed, including those nearing completion, and that 2,000 more dwellings are to be erected as soon as practicable. Now would be the time for introducing American lumber, hardware, plasterer's and carpenter's tools, brass and plumber's fittings, locks, iron fencing, mixing machines, and electrical fittings, as well as additional canned goods and other staple food and clothing supplies for this new town. (Holliday Sons, whose head office is in London, are the contractors in charge of house construction at Rosyth; Fraser & Carmichael are opening a general grocery store there; and Balfour, Beatty & Co. are in charge of the new electric tramway between Rosyth and Dunfermline. All three firms may be addressed simply "Rosyth, Fifeshire, Scotland.") Shipping conditions may prevent an extensive American trade at present, though the future gives promise of an enlarged market for American products in the newer part of the city.

New Houses too Small, is Claim.

The laying out of the streets and the manner in which the houses are planned in blocks appears to be far in advance of anything yet undertaken in this part of Scotland. The streets are wide, garden plots are in front of the houses, and there is a broad pathway along

which trees are planted at regular intervals. In the space between the houses there is a garden, thus insuring plenty of fresh air and a helpful addition of vegetables to the family needs. Viewed from a distance the blocks of houses look inviting with their dark tiled red roofs and attractive English-style decorations; yet in the opinion of the subcommittee of the Scottish Trade Union Congress the Rosyth houses under close inspection are not by any means ideal or free from adverse criticism. The apartments are very small, averaging not more than 14 feet front. There is a kitchen, 14 feet by 10 feet 9 inches; a scullery, 8 feet by 11 feet 6 inches; a bedroom above, the same size as the kitchen, with a press or closet understair and a closet in bedroom.

These workingmen's homes rent for \$2.35 weekly, rates (taxes) and electric lights included. There are 10 or 12 types of houses, the largest ones renting for \$160 to \$170 per annum. According to the chairman of the housing company the maximum rents the company can charge are only sufficient to bring in 3.65 per cent on the total capital cost.

THE GERMAN GLASS INDUSTRY IN WAR TIMES.

[From the Bremer Bürger-Zeitung, Bremen, Aug. 15.]

Prior to the war the German glass industry was an export industry. In the year 1913 glassware valued at more than 146,000,000 marks (\$34,748,000) was sold in foreign markets. Since the outbreak of the war, however, the glass industry has been working under difficulties and its very existence has been threatened. In the first months of the war, owing to the stoppage of exports, a majority of the glassworkers were thrown out of work. When the industry gradually recovered, thanks to the increasing demand of the military authorities and the preserved-food industries, a new menace appeared as large numbers of the workers were drafted into the army. Several glassworkers are, as a rule, working jointly on a piece of glassware, and if but one member of the group is taken away it becomes difficult to form a new group. Then the supplies of soda were commandeered; fortunately, however, substitute materials were found which enabled the factories to continue their operations. The commandeering of straw and the lack of freight cars has interfered with shipments, and now the glass industry, always a large consumer of coal, is to have its supply of fuel reduced to less than one-half. Thus, for example, the bottle factories are to receive only 15,000 tons of coal, instead of 37,000 which they have been receiving heretofore. In order to save coal the factories are expected to consolidate; but as there are hardly any places with more than one factory, consolidation will mean a change of residence for the workers.

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CINCINNATI: General Freight Agent, Southern Railway, 96 Ingalls Building.
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PORTLAND, OREG.: Chamber of Commerce.
DAYTON: Greater Dayton Association.

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the **Bureau** and its **district and cooperative offices**. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and **state opportunity number**. The **Bureau** does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases. Symbols: * Reported by American consular officers; † Reported by commercial attachés and commercial agents; ‡ Direct inquiries received by the Bureau.

In considering the following "opportunities" special regard should be had to the laws and regulations governing export licenses and trading with the enemy.

Antimony-----	25707	Flour-----	25709
Bathing dresses and caps-----	25706	Hardware-----	25706
Caustic soda-----	25707	Hosiery-----	25706
Chemicals-----	25707	Machinery-----	25708
Derricks-----	25704	Oil-----	25707, 25713
Dry goods-----	25706	Sugar-----	25711
Dyestuffs-----	25712	Trucks and trailers-----	25704
Electrical appliances-----	25705	Washing machines-----	25709

25704.*—A firm in Chile desires to purchase a truck specially for hauling large quantities of timber, logs, lumber, posts, etc., and a trailer, if practicable under such conditions. It also desires to purchase a derrick attachment for loading logs. If petrol truck is quoted for, special information should be given in regard to the average mileage per gallon of petrol when fully loaded and a guaranty of hauling efficiency of motor on a road that drops to 8,000 feet, rising again to 14,000 feet, within a distance of about 70 kilometers (44 miles). If this trial truck proves satisfactory, more will be ordered later on. Quotations may be quoted f. o. b. New York or other port, with statement of present rates, cubic measurement, etc. Payment will be made through local bank. Correspondence may be in English. References.

25705.†—A firm in New South Wales wishes to represent American manufacturers and exporters of hardware and electrical appliances. References.

25706.*—A company in Italy desires to purchase silk, cotton, and lisle hosiery for ladies, half hose, bathing dresses and bathing caps for women and children, and general dry goods. Catalogues and samples should be submitted wherever possible. It probably will consider an agency proposition. Credit will be opened in New York, if necessary. Correspondence should be in French or Italian. References.

25707.*—A firm in England is in the market for caustic soda, all chemicals such as glacial acetic acid, etc., aniline oil, and antimony, put up in 1-hundredweight casks or drums. Quotations should be made f. o. b. New York. Payment will be made by cash in the United States. Reference.

25708.*—An agency is desired by a man in France for the sale of cotton textile machinery, such as weaving, finishing, mercerizing, bleaching machines, etc. Correspondence should be in French.

25709.*—A company in Portugal desires to purchase wheat flour. Quotations should be made f. o. b. American port. Credit will be opened in New York for payment. Correspondence may be in English. Reference.

25710.*—A man in Canada is in the market for washing machines. Quotations should be made f. o. b. Cash will be paid. Correspondence may be in English. If trial order proves satisfactory, further orders will follow immediately.

25711.*—A company in England wishes to buy sugar put up in 2-hundredweight double bags. Quotations should be made f. o. b. New York. Payment will be made by cash against documents either at destination or in the United States. Reference.

25712.*—An agency is desired by a man in France for the sale of dyestuffs. Goods should be packed in cases or casks. Samples and price lists should be submitted. Correspondence should be in French. References.

25713.‡—The representative of a firm in Denmark desires to be placed in communication with American manufacturers and exporters of raw linseed oil and rape oil. He has an office in New York. References.

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No. 255 Washington, D. C., Wednesday, October 31 1917

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BRITISH TRADING RESTRICTIONS IN TAR OIL.

[Cablegram from American Consulate General, London, Oct. 27.]

Minister of Munitions as of November 1 takes possession of all tar oils produced from gas, coal tar, or coke oven tar of or exceeding 1,000 or producer tar or mond gas tar of any specific gravity. No future dealings permitted except under license; all authorized dealings shall be at prices not exceeding the following: Oil for benzol washing, 100s. per ton and for each degree by which crystallizing point is above 45° 1s. per ton shall be deducted from prices: Oil for use in Diesel engines, 87s. 6d. per ton and for other engines and furnaces as follows: Admiralty specification oil, 72s.; 75 per cent creosote oil and 25 per cent pitch, 61s. 6d.; 66½ oil and 33½ pitch, 58s.; half creosote oil and pitch, 51s.; 40 per cent and less creosote oil and 60 per cent pitch, 47s.

REMOVAL OF CANADIAN PROHIBITION ON OLEOMARGARINE.

[The Canada Gazette, Oct. 25.]

The greatly increased demand for butter and the desirability of making available substitutes therefor has led to the modification of the Canadian Dairy and Industry Act, which prohibited the manufacture, importation, and sale of oleomargarine. The new regulations permitting such operations and transactions apply to oleomargarine, margarine, butterine, and any other substitutes for butter manufactured wholly or in part from any fat other than that from milk and cream, and containing no foreign coloring matter or more than 16 per cent of water. The use of any preservative other than salt is also prohibited except with the written consent of the Food Controller for Canada. In order to engage in the importation or manufacture of oleomargarine a license from the Food Controller is required and imported products must be accompanied by satisfactory evidence of manufacture under Government supervision.

Packages containing oleomargarine must be durably and clearly marked "Oleomargarine" on the top, bottom, and sides in printed

letters not less than three-fourths inch square, and packages for retail sale are required to bear a label marked with the same word in printed capital letters not less than one-half inch square. When sold at retail in any package not so marked, it must be delivered to the purchaser in a paper wrapper bearing the word "Oleomargarine" in capital block letters not less than one-half inch long, but no other printed matter. Places serving oleomargarine are also required to give notice of the fact by a placard displayed in a conspicuous place. No placard, label, or brand may be used until it has been approved by the Food Controller, and books showing all transactions entered into by importers or manufacturers must be kept for the inspection of the same official.

Oleomargarine complying with the above conditions is to be admitted free of duty from November 1, 1917, the date on which the regulations go into effect. The regulations are to remain in force until abrogated by an order in council.

GADELOUPE'S SUGAR CROP REQUISITIONED.

[Consul Henry T. Wilcox, Guadeloupe, French West Indies, Oct. 19.]

Owing to the scarcity of sugar, the French Government has requisitioned the total amount produced by the centrals of Guadeloupe during 1917; 160 tons (352,739 pounds) have been taken to supply the needs of the colony until February, 1918, when a new crop will be available, and the remainder, approximately 36,000 metric tons, has been taken charge of by the French Government.

The governor of the colony has fixed the price to be paid by the local government for the 160 tons at 65 francs per 100 kilos (\$5 per 100 pounds). It is now being sold to the merchants at the following prices, which allow for sufficient profit to cover the cost of hauling, storage, insurance, clerk hire, loss by deterioration, etc.: From 1 to 9 sacks of 100 kilos each, 80 francs per sack (\$6.22 per 100 pounds); for more than 900 kilos (1,984 pounds), 77.50 francs per sack (\$6.02 per 100 pounds). The maximum retail price that may be charged by the merchants is 90 centimes per kilo (7 cents per pound).

CHANGE DATE OF CANADIAN PACKAGE-GOODS RESTRICTION.

The Canadian Food Controller has postponed the dates on which wholesalers and retailers will be subject to restrictions which were placed upon the sale of small packages of breakfast foods by an order in council dated October 19, 1917. Instead of becoming effective November 1 for wholesalers and December 1 for retailers, the Food Controller has decided that the date for wholesalers shall be December 31 and that for retailers January 31.

The original order gave the Food Controller power to issue licenses for these goods or to grant exemptions. The specific articles that are covered by the notice are described as "any foods known as breakfast foods, or cereals, or flour, or other foods which are the product of wheat, oats, barley, rye, rice, peas, beans, buckwheat, Indian corn (maize), or lentils in original packages of less weight than 20 pounds." The order in council was published in **COMMERCE REPORTS** for October 26, 1917.

MOVEMENT OF EGYPTIAN COTTON.

[Consul Arthur Garrels, Alexandria, Sept. 21.]

For statistical purposes the Egyptian cotton year begins September 1 and ends August 31. Practically the entire crop is grown for export. With the exception of a few bales shipped through Port Said, the whole exportation is handled through Alexandria. According to figures published by the Alexandria General Produce Association, the arrivals at Alexandria during the 1916-17 season amounted to 5,111,080 cantars (cantar=99.05 pounds). A recapitulation of the movement and stocks on hand for the period in question is given as follows:

	Cantars.
Stock at Alexandria Sept. 1, 1916.....	93, 000
Receipts	5, 111, 080
Total	5, 204, 080
Exports.....	4, 813, 129
Local consumption.....	63, 345
Destroyed by fire	1, 606
Total	4, 878, 080
Stock on hand, including 16,950 cantars at Port Said.....	326, 000

The Egyptian cotton bale approximates 750 pounds. The 1916-17 exports were made up of 630,610 bales, with proportions to various countries of destination, as follows: England, 346,196 bales; Spain, 12,534; United States, 134,891; France, 28,063; Japan, 20,682; Italy, 54,726; Portugal, 929; Russia, 32,446; and Greece, 143.

CANADIAN CANNED GOODS EMBARGO RAISED.

[Consul Felix S. S. Johnson, Kingston, Ontario, Oct. 19.]

Canned vegetables may now be sold without restriction in any part of Canada. An announcement from the Canadian Food Controller's office states that the embargo of August 24, 1917 [see COMMERCE REPORTS for Aug. 31], upon the sale of peas, beans, tomatoes, beets, celery, corn, spinach, rhubarb, and pumpkins preserved in cans, glass jars, or other containers has been raised.

The lifting of the embargo applies to the three Maritime Provinces—Ontario, Quebec, and British Columbia. In the three Prairie Provinces the prohibition was withdrawn some time ago. The announcement adds that the embargo has been effective in stimulating the consumption of fresh vegetables and increasing the supply of canned vegetables available for the coming season.

NEW LIGHT ESTABLISHED ON NAVASSA ISLAND.

A new light was established on Navassa Island in the Caribbean Sea by the United States Lighthouse Service on October 21, 1917. The light is 395 feet above water, on a cylindrical concrete tower, and shows group flashing white, 2 flashes every 30 seconds. Its position is latitude 18° 25' 00" N., longitude 75° 00' 00" W. Publications which cover this location are H. O. Charts 1487 and 1290; Light List, Atlantic coast, 1917, p. 376, No. 2207; and Buoy List, Ninth District, 1917, p. 19.

WAR'S CHECK TO STAINLESS STEEL.

[From Common Sense, London, England.]

Certain cutlery manufacturers here are seeking to enshroud the recently promulgated order of the Ministry of Munitions regarding the use of chromium as an alloy of steel, except for war requirements, in an atmosphere of mystery. Chromium is the essential of stainless steel, just as tungsten had always been considered the essential of high-speed steel, but the stainless quality is dependent upon a particular treatment of chrome steel. Its discovery, about a year before the war commenced, arose out of experiments then being made in the introduction of high-tensile alloy steels, it being noticed that test pieces cut from the steel resisted atmospheric attacks in the laboratory and proved extraordinarily impervious to all corrosive influences.

Within 12 months, there being then no patent rights protecting it, the steel was made by several firms, and manufactured in the form of table cutlery. Several cutlery concerns turned their serious attention to the new product and did well, but others permitted a traditional conservative spirit to blind them to the possibilities of stainless steel, and in the development of this class of tableware that has since occurred they have been rather badly "left." The suggestion now is, apparently, that the new order has been, in some unexplained manner, influenced by the latter people. There is absolutely nothing in it.

Former Conditions of Production.

For very many years chrome steel has been made in considerable quantities in connection with naval and general ordnance work. It has the quality of being rustless. For three years the Government caused no interruption of the production of the new rustless and stainless steel and placed no restriction upon its use in cutlery manufacture, except that latterly the quantity required for war purposes increased almost weekly. From the very commencement it was requisitioned in the manufacture of certain parts of aeroplanes, being of great strength, and now the Government's requirements are so heavy that, except under permits which are well-nigh unobtainable, chrome may not be used in the making of any steel save that intended for war purposes.

The order, of course, has created a trade contretemps. An enormous demand prevails for stainless cutlery, though it comes chiefly from overseas, people in this country being curiously slow in recognizing the merits of the new steel. Where it has been tried there is no turning back to the old style of cutlery, which requires laborious cleaning on an emery board or has its life shortened in machines.

Made Position for Itself Immediately.

Perhaps the home user was a little afraid of the price and paid rather too much attention to the exaggerated statements regarding the cutting edge of the new knife—to its detriment, of course. In many large English hotels, however, and through our dominions and dependencies, where labor-saving appliances always find ready acceptance, stainless cutlery made a position for itself immediately, with the result that manufacturers have since been quite unable to fill more than a portion of the orders that have poured in.

Many makers were induced to produce the new cutlery for the simple reason that a year ago the Ministry of Munitions found it necessary to forbid the use of open-hearth steel for cutlery making unless in execution of Government contracts. That order restricted makers to the use of three kinds of steel—crucible, stainless, and shell discard. The first mentioned has always been used for the very best class of table cutlery (shear steel); the second already has been explained; and the third, really a scrap steel from munition works, is of such irregular quality that only the commoner kinds of knives could safely be made from it. Now the only steels available are the first and last mentioned.

Men Employed Put on Their Merits.

From the manufacturers' point of view the situation created by the latest order is disappointing in the extreme. From the Government's standpoint the necessity for it is unfortunate, as it cuts off a profitable export trade of great promise—the cost of stainless cutlery, for which there was such an overseas rush, being fully 100 per cent higher than that of the best shear-steel article. One of the pioneers in its manufacture declares that the new steel has done much to improve the cutlery trade, not only from a commercial but from a labor point of view. The men employed are put upon their merits as never before; so much depends upon their skill, and the incentive to do their very best lies in the fact that the work pays well.

What is being attempted now is a kind of wild agitation in the hope of inducing the ministry to make some concession by lessening the restrictions so far as the export trade is concerned, many of the orders in hand being from places in South America. Those who are concerned in this agitation point to the fact of the official exhibition at Westminster of labor-saving devices and inventions, and ask why, seeing that "stainless" is labor-saving, its manufacture should be prohibited. Some urge that 100 tons of ferrochrome per annum would keep the trade together, and others contend that £35 to £40 worth of chrome used in the manufacture of "stainless" produces over £1,000 worth of cutlery.

Samples of American Product.

There are those who see in this prohibition an invitation to the United States, which so far has no such restriction, to come into the British market with "stainless" and, adds one manufacturer: "If America gets hold of it, Sheffield's trade in it is doomed." Indeed, samples of American "stainless" are said to be already in Sheffield.

It is a contretemps, but no mystery. What the cutlery trade is "up against" is the consequence of prolonged warfare. Every ounce of chrome is now needed for munitions of one kind and another, and into munitions it will go. How the Sheffield interests that registered a patent for "stainless" in the United States and other countries will fare is not known, but it is certain that every cutlery manufacturer here is now face to face with the plain fact that trade interests, however vital they may seem to the members of an industry, must be sacrificed to the needs of the war. It is a part—a small part—of the price.

[A statement of the prohibition of the manufacture of stainless steel for cutlery was published in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for Oct. 20, 1917.]

FINAL REPORT OF NIZHNI NOVGOROD FAIR.

[Consul David B. Macgowan, Moscow, Russia, Sept. 12.]

Final reports of the fiftieth annual fair at Nizhni Novgorod confirm the earlier statements that the volume of business transacted was the smallest ever known. The number of trading licenses issued up to August 21 is considered a satisfactory index of the recorded business. In 1914 there were 694 first-guild licenses and 1,302 second-guild licenses; in 1915 there were 479 and 1,087, respectively; this year there were 61 and 365, respectively. Moreover, a number of the 61 licenses issued to larger firms were not used, as they sent no goods. The collections of the special trading tax of a fourth of a kopeck to the pood (36.11 pounds) of goods shipped to the fair amounted in 1914 to 23,953 rubles; in 1915, to 16,788 rubles; in 1916, to 15,225 rubles; and this year, to 9,827 rubles.

Causes of Small Turnover at Fair.

Various causes combined to limit the business at the fair. The production of manufactured articles has been greatly curtailed as a result of the revolution. The Government requisitions the larger part of the more important manufactured products. For example, the Moscow textile mills must deliver 75 per cent of their output to the military-supply departments and 13 per cent to the food-supply department, for exchange to the peasants for grain. They have only 12 per cent available for the open market. The decrease of output in these mills has been estimated at 40 per cent, as compared with last year. It is not necessary for manufacturers to send goods to fairs; they are besieged with orders.

Trade Conditions in Various Articles.

The leather business is completely monopolized by the Government. It is due to this fact, according to the Journal of Commerce and Industry, published by the Government, that an ordinary pair of boots costs 80 to 100 rubles and a 3-inch leather belt costs 19 rubles per yard. Hides and skins have disappeared from the market. Metal goods and metals were scarcely represented at the fair. The visible stocks consisted of old boilers and tubes and a small quantity of iron beams. Wool was not carried in stock. But, as has been pointed out, the official trading did not measure the fair. The bulk of the deals were made, with or without samples, in hotel rooms.

Even cottage industries were almost unrepresented. Instead of the usual shipment of 6,000,000 yards of peasant linen there was less than 750,000 yards. Felt boots were not to be had, the entire supply going to the Army. Knit socks and stockings were comparatively abundant, selling for 3 to 4 rubles per pair, with better grades at 6 to 8 rubles.

Woodenware offerings were about half as large as in 1916. Glass stocks were one-sixth of those in 1915 and two-thirds of 1916 stocks. Porcelain stocks were 40 per cent of those of 1915 and a little more than half of the 1916 supplies. Chemicals, toilet articles, and drugs were not dealt in at all.

[A preliminary report on the Nizhni Novgorod Fair appeared in **COMMERCE REPORTS** for Oct. 27.]

KOBÉ LEADING PACIFIC PORT IN FOREIGN COMMERCE.

[Consul Robert Frazer, jr., Kobé, Japan, Sept. 28.]

The foreign commerce of the port of Kobé has shown a remarkable expansion since the outbreak of the war. In 1916 its total foreign commerce increased 36 per cent, as compared with the year immediately preceding the war, or from \$258,539,000 to \$352,601,000; and, although the latter amount constituted a record when it was made, it bids fair to be surpassed by about 35 per cent in 1917.

The United States is both the chief customer of and principal seller to this district, the total volume of trade between the United States (including insular possessions) and Kobé having amounted to \$81,000,000 in 1916. Of this large sum, more than \$50,000,000 represented Japanese purchases from and \$30,000,000 Japanese sales to the United States.

Returns of the foreign trade of Kobé, as compared with the most recent returns available for the other principal ports of the Pacific, are as follows:

Kobé, Japan, 1916	\$352,601,000
Yokohama, Japan, 1916	333,645,000
Shanghai, China, 1916	348,689,000
Singapore, Straits Settlements, 1915 (inclusive of intercolonial trade)	273,211,000
Sydney, Australia, 1915	257,097,000
San Francisco customs district, 1916	209,138,000
State of Washington customs district, 1916	300,541,000
Manila, 1916	87,248,000
Valparaiso, Chile, 1915	38,234,450
Canton, China, 1916	67,103,963
Tientsin, China, 1916	52,534,000
Callao, Peru, 1915	29,438,000

Complete returns of the foreign trade of Hongkong, the only first-rank port on the Pacific not included in the foregoing list, are not officially kept, but it is not believed that the commerce of that port approaches Kobé's. Exports from Hongkong to the United States and its insular possessions in 1916, which constituted a record, amounted to \$13,872,000.

While it is true that in 1916 Yokohama outranked Kobé, for the first seven months of 1917 the foreign trade of that port amounted to only \$237,922,000, contrasted with Kobé's seven-months total of \$270,479,000. Prorated for the complete year this indicates a total of \$463,678,000 in 1917 for Kobé, against \$407,866,000 for Yokohama. [American figures for the fiscal year 1917 (ending June 30) show the total foreign trade of the Washington customs district to have been \$376,000,000, and that of the San Francisco district \$286,840,000.]

AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS.

Four publications of the Commonwealth of Australia containing statutory rules which are based upon war-precaution measures have been forwarded from Sydney by Consul General J. I. Brittain. They relate, respectively, to the winter butter pool, the Leather Industries Board, the Commonwealth Prices Board, and Government purchases of rabbit skins. These documents may be inspected at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce. Refer to file No. 94155.

PROPOSED MEAT-INSPECTION LAW IN PARAGUAY.

[Consul Henry H. Balch, Asuncion, Aug. 20.]

The Paraguayan Congress has before it a measure to govern the inspection of meat. The proposed legislation would create, as a part of the Ministerio de Hacienda, the Direccion de Granaderia e Inspeccion de Carnes, charged with work aimed at the prevention of contagious diseases of live stock and the inspection of meat-food animals and meat-food products which are slaughtered or prepared in establishments engaged in foreign commerce with countries where certificates of inspection are required.

If the board is created, the Minister of Hacienda will appoint a director, who must be a graduate of a recognized veterinary college or one the standing of which is subscribed to by the Government of the country where it is located or its accredited representative in Paraguay.

Inspector for Each Establishment.

It is proposed that the director shall assign to each establishment in which inspection is maintained one inspector who is a graduate of a veterinary college, to be in charge of the service in the establishment and to make all final ante mortem and post-mortem inspections; and one assistant to the inspector. The director would nominate for official commissions employees provided for by this law, assign their duties, and issue instructions to govern their official acts. He would also prescribe such rules and regulations as may be necessary to an efficient execution of the proposed law. Any establishment in which inspection may be maintained would be required to furnish all labor necessary to an efficient execution of the provisions of the law, such labor to be performed under the supervision of national employees.

Before the inauguration of inspection in any establishment application would be made to the director, who would then make, or cause to be made, an inspection of the establishment to determine the sanitary arrangements and conditions. If, upon reinspection from time to time of establishments where inspection is maintained, any conditions are found which render any meat or meat-food products unclean or otherwise unfit for human consumption, and if the establishment fails or refuses to correct such conditions, the director would be authorized temporarily to refuse to permit the products to be labeled as inspected and approved, and to recommend that inspection be withdrawn from such establishment.

The term "meat-food animals" is applied only to cattle, sheep, swine, and goats; and "meat-food products" comprise only edible products derived wholly or in part from such animals.

Cases in Which There are Symptoms of Disease.

The director would have inspectors make an examination of all meat-food animals before they are allowed to enter any establishment where inspection is maintained; and all animals which are found to show symptoms of disease would be slaughtered separately from the others and their carcasses be subject to a careful examination and inspection.

All carcasses or parts which are found to be unsound or otherwise unfit for human food would be marked "Inspected and con-

demned," and all such carcasses or parts so condemned would be destroyed for food purposes by the establishment in the presence of an inspector. The director would be authorized to remove inspectors from any establishment which failed to destroy any such carcasses or parts. There would be provision also for reinspections.

Inspectors would be authorized to give official certificates for any meat or meat-food products which are inspected and approved, such certificates to be in any form, within the provisions of the proposed law, that may be required in the countries to which they are destined. One copy of this certificate would be filed in the direction, a second copy delivered to the owner or shipper, and a third to the chief officer of the vessel or other carrier on which the meat or meat-food products may be shipped.

Industry Promises to Become Important.

The enactment of a national meat-inspection law and the adoption of an adequate system of inspection for such products when they are intended for export from Paraguay is advocated on account of the establishment of meat-packing and refrigerating plants in the country. A New York company is now constructing a large modern meat-packing and refrigerating plant near Asuncion, with a total capitalization of \$5,000,000 United States gold, including grazing and quebracho lands, equipment, river boats, etc. A Paraguayan concern, capitalized at \$241,000, is about ready to install the machinery in a meat-packing and refrigerating plant at Trinidad, near Asuncion, Paraguay.

Through these plants and the smaller local industries the meat industry of Paraguay promises to become very important. It is estimated that there are more than 4,000,000 head of cattle in the country. The Paraguay River offers an excellent transportation route from Corumbá, Brazil, over which Brazilian cattle may be shipped from the State of Matto Grosso to Asuncion for consumption by the Paraguayan refrigerating plants.

[A thorough discussion of Paraguay's position as a cattle country was published in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for Oct. 1, 1913. Articles on the formation of packing companies appeared in the issues of Aug. 25, 1916, and July 16, 1917.]

STEAMSHIP LINE BETWEEN CHILEAN AND BRAZILIAN PORTS.

[Consul General L. J. Keena, Valparaiso, Chile, Oct. 5.]

A meeting of business men was recently called by the intendente (governor) of this Province to discuss with Senor Müller dos Reis, a director of the Lloyd Brazilian Line, the opportunities for a regular freight service between Chilean and Brazilian ports. At the meeting it was decided that Chile could supply certain products needed in Brazil, viz: Nitrate, wine, beans, peas, nuts, wheat, malt, barley, and other products, and in return could profitably import from Brazil coffee, yerba-mate, rice, sugar, and possibly some manufactured articles.

It is stated that a regular freight service will be established by the Lloyd Brazilian Line if it is found profitable.

An article entitled "A short history of the detinning industry" was published in the issue of *Metallurgical and Chemical Engineering* for August 15, 1917.

SPECIAL PLOW MADE IN THIS COUNTRY FOR LATIN AMERICA.

[Consul Francis J. Dyer, Tegucigalpa, Honduras, Sept. 27.]

Manufacturers and others who have offered agricultural machinery for use in Latin American countries have found difficulty in getting the laborers to make use of plows, harrows, cultivators, reapers, and other appliances which are popular among farmers in Europe and the United States. One man in Tegucigalpa, who acts as an agent for American houses and who has made a careful study of this market conceived the idea that if he could get a manufacturer to build a plow on the plan suggested by the one-handed implement fashioned from the crooked branch of a tree and pointed with iron the native farmer could be induced to use it, because the latter was so thoroughly convinced that he needed one hand to guide the plow and the other to guide the draft animals that he would not use a plow which he said required both hands.

Official Makes Favorable Report.

Finally the factory made two plows as desired, with one handle each. These were turned over to Señor Aldomero Francesch, director of the national experimental station at Toncontin, Honduras, for a thorough, practical trial. After making many tests in various soils, Señor Francesch made a report, on the strength of which a Tegucigalpa house gave a trial order for one dozen plows. *El Nuevo Tiempo*, the official daily paper of Honduras, published the report on the subject. It is as follows:

The plow, in my judgment, is the only one of American make which has given satisfactory results, and this is stated after nine years work in Latin America. It does the same work in different soils, and further, is made of strong material, is easily managed, and any laborer of the country can in five minutes learn to handle it. The plow has only one handle, an alteration which the factory made for these countries where the plowman needs a free hand for guiding the animals. It can be worked with a pair of ordinary oxen, cutting the soil from 5 to 25 centimeters in depth, and from 10 to 20 in width, adjustable according to the cultivations desired (centimeter=0.39 inch).

In cultivation, as well as preparations for seeding, this plow has given almost incredible results. In two days one man with an ordinary yoke of oxen cultivated a manzana (1.72 acres) of land, while with a plow of the country it would have taken him 5 or 6 days. It is more easily handled than the plow of the country, does not need a guide, and being so light in weight is easily turned around. The point is interchangeable, and may be sharpened by any blacksmith of the country, while extra points cost very little.

Seeing the great advantage of this plow the neighbors have offered to pay as much as \$1 a day silver (equal now to 50 cents gold) for the use of it.

GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS FOR SALE.

The following were among the publications received in stock for sale by the Superintendent of Documents at Washington during the week ended October 27:

Shoe and Leather Trade in New Zealand (Special Agent Series 515).—Gives information relative to markets for boots and shoes, wholesale and retail, methods, customs, regulations, advertising, etc. Price, 5 cents.

Electrical Goods in New Zealand (Special Agent Series 147).—Gives information relative to markets for engines, turbines, insulators, and all kinds of electric supplies. Price, 5 cents.

Motor Gasoline Properties, laboratory methods of testing and practical specifications (Mines Bureau Technical Paper 166).—A practical publication covering the properties and methods of testing gasoline. Price, 5 cents.

MARKET FOR IMITATION LEATHER IN SOUTH AMERICA.**ARGENTINA.**

[Vice Consul S. Reed Thompson, Rosario.]

Imitation leather is used at Rosario in the manufacture of suit cases and traveling bags, for furniture and coach upholstery, and to a lesser extent in the bookbinding trade. The existing demand is not large. A manufacturer of trunks and travelers' goods, probably the largest local importer, states that a certain American sample which was offered him for examination is a much finer grade than is used in the suit-case trade. He has furnished three samples of types which are employed in his business.

Sample No. 1 is a very ordinary light fabric used in the manufacture of cheap suit cases, valises, school bags, etc., which have a showy appearance and are popular among the poorer classes. This grade is imported from Italy in rolls of 1.2 meters width (3.94 feet), and costs the importer 22.5 cents per meter length (3.28 feet) placed in Rosario.

Samples Nos. 2 and 3 are used in much smaller quantities and are purchased from Buenos Aires importers. These grades are sold in widths of 1.4 meters (4.59 feet) at \$2.50 Argentine paper (\$1.06 United States gold) per meter length.

Demand Now Lighter Than Before War.

Any desired color can be obtained, although the brown or tan is chiefly in demand. In normal times this firm imports from 3,000 to 4,000 meters (9,842 to 13,123 feet) annually of the No. 1 grade, but at present no reliable figures can be obtained. The demand, however, is much lighter than before the war. Other concerns using imitation leather whose needs are smaller buy from importers and commission houses at Rosario or Buenos Aires. A large hardware and implement house states that it purchases through its New York agents imitation leather of different grades, some finer and some cheaper than the American sample already mentioned. Its imports from the United States come in bales of 50-inch width and range in price from 25 cents a yard for the cheapest to 56 cents for the finest. This house buys from 100 to 150 bales of different grades.

Imitation leather is imported from Italy, the United Kingdom, and the United States. Before the war Germany had a good share of the trade. Italian imports lead at Rosario.

The necessity of sending out a representative can not be too strongly urged if American manufacturers wish to compete with Italian firms whose traveling men already have a good hold on the market. German houses invariably sent representatives. Where this is impracticable, however, an agency may be placed with merchants or commission men. An agency at Buenos Aires would be able to take care of this territory as well, especially if the representative is a large house having connections throughout this district.

Provisions of the Argentine Tariff.

The Rosario customs officials state that imitation leather would be classified under paragraph 2514 of the Argentine import tariff, and is subject to a duty of 25 per cent, to which must be added the regular surtax of 2 per cent assessed on all imports the duty on which

is 10 per cent or over, and a special additional surtax of 5 per cent recently voted and in force until December 31, 1917, assessed on imports the duty on which is more than 20 per cent.

This duty of 32 per cent, including surtaxes, is collected not on the actual or invoice value, but on the "aforo" or officially fixed valuation for customs purposes, which for the articles classified under paragraph 2514 is 70 gold centavos (67.5 cents) per kilo (2.2 pounds). The stick or pole upon which the roll may be formed is included in the weight. This makes the duty equivalent to a specific rate of 9.8 cents per pound. In addition to the import duty the Argentine tariff prescribes certain official charges for customs handling, storage, and statistics, which amount to a little less than 1 per cent of the value of merchandise. The duty and charges apply to imitation leather imported from all countries, as there are no preferential or conventional rates.

Credit Terms in the Local Trade.

Italian and English firms grant 90 days from the arrival of goods, which are the usual credit terms at Rosario and acceptable to the leading houses. German firms formerly granted 120 days. Cash payments are often made in dealing with American houses, and in that case a discount of 1 to 2 per cent is given.

The samples of imitation leather from the Argentine market that are forwarded with this report come in rolls of 25 meters (82 feet) length, securely packed in wooden cases. An English article is imported in rolls of 11 yards length. The American article comes in bales of 10 meters (32.8 feet) length, packed in wooden boxes containing from 20 to 25 bales. Dealers here desire c. i. f. quotations if practicable, although f. o. b. New York may be quoted, especially to the larger houses. Goods may be transshipped at Buenos Aires for Rosario importers.

[Lists of users, importers, and dealers in these goods at Rosario with whom American manufacturers can enter into correspondence may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district offices. The numbered samples that are mentioned in this report may be inspected at the same offices. Refer to file No. 89935.]

BRAZIL.

[Consul Carl F. Delchman, Santos.]

Imitation leathers as raw material have not yet been introduced in the Santos market, but in view of the present high prices and scarcity of real leather the time seems propitious for the introduction of substitutes. The success of an artificial leather here will depend upon the closeness of its resemblance to leather, its durability, and the price at which it can be sold.

The best method of introducing new lines is to grant an exclusive agency to some large importing firm in each of the principal commercial centers, such as Rio de Janeiro and São Paulo, these firms in turn to work through subagencies in the smaller towns.

General advertising in the newspapers and periodicals has not the same value in selling goods in Brazil that it has in the United States. For an article such as imitation leather, the sale of which would be principally to factories and shops, a generous line of advertising literature (in Portuguese for Brazil), with samples, should be

supplied to the firms to which agencies are granted. They would distribute them among subagencies and prospective customers.

Use of Local Publications.

The matter of advertising in local publications should be left to the discretion of the firms that have the agencies. The commission to be paid is a matter to be arranged between the exporter and importer. It is usually 5 per cent and upward, according to the nature of the goods to be sold.

Import duties on this class of article would be about 34 cents a pound, the amount fluctuating with the rate of exchange for local currency.

The usual terms of credit are 60 to 90 days from receipt of invoice, although recently some of the larger importing houses have been paying cash on receipt of goods.

Artificial leather would not require as strong packing as goods liable to breakage or other damage. It should be put up in bales or bundles, wrapped with burlap, and securely bound.

[A list of firms at Santos which might handle this class of goods may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 90722.]

PARAGUAY.

[Consul Henry H. Balch, Asuncion.]

Practically no imitation leather other than ordinary oilcloth is sold in Paraguay. Several local dealers were recently supplied by a New York house with samples of such material for automobile coverings, but very little demand has developed. Through personal inquiries of Asuncion business houses, during which a sample of certain imitation leather of American manufacture was shown, it was learned by the American consulate that a market might be developed for its use as an automobile covering, in upholstery, shoe manufacturing, bookbinding, and the manufacture of trunks and suit cases to a limited extent. It is doubtful, however, if there would be sufficient trade to justify sending a special representative. The trade probably could be more easily developed through one of the local firms.

Credit is an important item. Before the war merchants rarely ever paid cash for goods. Credits of 3 to 12 months frequently were granted to importers. Interest of about 6 per cent per annum usually was paid.

Trade-Marks and Patents.

Trade-marks are not protected in Paraguay without registration. Any person may register a manufacturer's trade-mark, thereby depriving him of the right to sell his goods under his own mark. There is no general law protecting patents. A special act of Congress is necessary for each patent. Imitation leather does not appear under any heading in the Paraguayan tariff. It would probably be admitted as oilcloth for upholstering under Item 3185, which provides a duty of 42 per cent ad valorem on an arbitrary valuation of 80 cents gold per kilo of 2.2 pounds, including the weight of the stick upon which rolled. Considerable advertising is done through the

local newspapers; there is practically none by means of street-car signs, billboards, etc.

[A list of possible importers of imitation leather at Asuncion may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 89599.]

BRITISH GUIANA.

[Consul George E. Chamberlin, Georgetown.]

Imports of imitation leather into British Guiana amount to only 1,200 to 1,500 yards per annum. It is used chiefly for carriage and automobile tops and upholstering. All that is found in the market is black and of three grades, costing at wholesale 65 cents, \$1, and \$1.25 per yard. None is manufactured in this district, and practically all is received from the United States. There are only two importers of the product, and both purchase on 60 days open account or will pay cash in New York, as preferred.

Imitation leather has never been advertised in this colony, and it is possible that its consumption could be somewhat increased if such a course were adopted, but the market is small and it is doubtful if an advertising campaign would be profitable.

The customs duty on this material is 16½ per cent ad valorem. The usual packing for export is sufficient for this port, as all goods are discharged direct to covered wharves. The usual commission for local commission agents is 5 per cent.

[Lists of Importers now handling imitation leather, of Importers who might be interested, and of commission agents in British Guiana may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 89142.]

MANUFACTURE OF ZINC IN MEXICO.

[Vice Consul Luther K. Zabriskie, Mexico City, Oct. 12.]

According to the Boletín Financiero y Minero de México, of October 10, the International Ore Co., of Saltillo, State of Coahuila, is constructing two furnaces, each one containing 300 retorts, with a capacity approximating 40 to 45 tons per day and a daily production of zinc amounting to 15 tons.

The furnaces will burn crude petroleum, whose gases will be used within the boilers of the generating plant.

The cost of this project is estimated at \$90,000 American currency.

OFFICES OF THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE.

DISTRICT OFFICES.

NEW YORK: 784 Customhouse.
BOSTON: 1801 Customhouse.
CHICAGO: 504 Federal Building.
ST. LOUIS: 402 Third National Bank Building.
NEW ORLEANS: 1020 Hibernia Bank Building.
SAN FRANCISCO: 307 Customhouse.
SEATTLE: 849 Henry Building.

COOPERATIVE OFFICES.

CLEVELAND: Chamber of Commerce.
CINCINNATI: Chamber of Commerce.
CINCINNATI: General Freight Agent, Southern Railway, 96 Ingalls Building.
LOS ANGELES: Chamber of Commerce.
PHILADELPHIA: Chamber of Commerce.
CHATTANOOGA: South American Agent, Southern Railway System.
PORTLAND, OREG.: Chamber of Commerce.
DAYTON: Greater Dayton Association.

DISPOSAL OF SKINS OF GOATS AND SHEEP IN ITALY.

[Consul General David F. Wilber, Genoa, Sept. 26.]

The *Gazzetta Ufficiale*, published at Rome, September 14, 1917, contains a ministerial decree putting at the disposal of the Ministry for Industry, Commerce, and Labor the raw skins of goats and sheep of national production. It is provided that the ministry shall make arrangements for their collection and distribution for the manufacture of national boots and shoes.

From September 26, 1917, producers must consign, regardless of any bond or contract, all skins referred to by this decree which are produced by them, to the collection depots, in the manner indicated by those appointed to collect the skins. The maximum prices to be paid to producers by the collecting agents for skins delivered free at the collection depots, or for payment in net cash, are established. These prices range from 3.50 to 6.50 lire per skin, and 42 to 78 lire per dozen (lira=19.3 cents at par) for she-goat skins, dried; from 6.25 to 7.50 each, and 75 to 90 per dozen for he-goat skins; and the following rates for sheep: Entire wool, salt dried, 2.75 lire per kilo of 2.2 pounds; entire wool, dried, shorn, and half wool, salt dried, 3.50 lire per kilo; shorn and half-wool dried, 4 lire per kilo.

Certain deductions are provided for inferior and defective skins. Collecting agents will have a fixed right to 50 centesimi for each skin, with which all expenses of collection up to consignment to the carrier are considered as paid, no expense being excluded or excepted, comprising profit and compensation for any service whatever.

PROPOSALS FOR GOVERNMENT SUPPLIES AND CONSTRUCTION.

[Correspondence should be direct with the offices named, and specifications and other information can usually be obtained at the points where the goods are to be delivered or the work is to be performed. In cases where the time limit is too short to permit firms to submit tenders, they should ask to be placed on the mailing lists of such offices to receive notices calling for future supplies or work of a similar nature.]

Floating derrick hull, No. 4873.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Bureau of Yards and Docks, Navy Department, Washington, D. C., until November 12, 1917, for a floating derrick hull for the Naval Academy, Annapolis, Md. Specifications No. 2628.

Excavation, No. 4874.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the United States Reclamation Service, Department of the Interior, Washington, D. C., until December 18, 1917, for the construction of 15.7 miles of main lateral on the Fort Laramie Unit, North Platte project, Nebraska-Wyoming, involving about 236,700 cubic yards of excavation. The work is located near the Bridgeport-Guernsey line of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railway, in the vicinity of Torrington, Wyo.

Steel towers, No. 4875.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Bureau of Yards and Docks, Navy Department, Washington, D. C., until November 26, 1917, for the construction of two 200-foot steel towers at the naval radio station, St. Thomas, Virgin Isles, West Indies. Specifications No. 2568.

Furniture for sale, No. 4876.—Sealed proposals will be received by the Lighthouse Inspector, Ketchikan, Alaska, until December 14, 1917, for sale of household furniture, stoves, tables, bedsteads, etc., condemned Government property which may be inspected at the Lighthouse Depot, Ketchikan, Alaska.

Bulkhead, No. 4877.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Bureau of Yards and Docks, Navy Department, Washington, D. C., until November 19, 1917, for constructing a timber bulkhead at the navy yard, Boston, Mass. Specifications No. 2653.

Earthwork construction, No. 4878.—Sealed proposals will be received at the United States Engineer Office, 519 Canal Street, New Orleans, La., until November 10, 1917, for constructing about 1,822,000 cubic yards of earthwork in the Lower Tensas, Barataria, and Pontchartrain Levee Districts.

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the **Bureau** and its **district and cooperative offices**. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and **state opportunity number**. The **Bureau** does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases. Symbols: * Reported by American consular officers; † Reported by commercial attachés and commercial agents; ‡ Direct inquiries received by the Bureau.

In considering the following "opportunities" special regard should be had to the laws and regulations governing export licenses and trading with the enemy.

Boots and shoes.....	25719	Looms.....	25721
Canned goods.....	25719	Machine tools.....	25718
Coal.....	25713	Motors, electric.....	25720
Confectionery and cocoa.....	25719	Oils and greases.....	25717
Corsets.....	25719	Paints and varnishes.....	25717
Drugs and chemicals.....	25717	Paper, carton, etc.....	25716, 25719
Dry goods.....	25717, 25719	Railroad material and machinery.....	25717
Earthenware.....	25719	Refrigerators.....	25717
Electrical supplies and equipment.....	25722	Saws.....	25723
Floor coverings.....	25719	Shoe findings.....	25714, 25719
Food products.....	25716	Textiles.....	25717, 25719
Glass and glassware.....	25719	Tobacco.....	25719
Hosiery.....	25719	Yarns.....	25717
Iron and steel.....	25717	Machinery.....	25717
Leather.....	25714, 25717	Millinery.....	25719

25714.*—A company in Brazil desires to purchase leather for uppers and shoe findings in general in all qualities and quantities for a small factory. Quotations should be made f. o. b. New York. It will also sell these goods on a commission basis, American dealer to collect directly from buyer. Correspondence may be in English. References.

25715.*—A firm in Italy desires to purchase or secure an agency for the sale of 4,000 or 5,000 ton lots of coal. Correspondence should be in French or Italian. References.

25716.*—A man in France desires to represent American manufacturers and exporters of food products and news-print paper. Correspondence should be in French. References.

25717.†—A firm in Brazil desires to exclusively represent American manufacturers and exporters of cotton, wool, and silk dry goods, textiles, and machinery, yarns, leather for the manufacture of shoes, iron and steel products, chemicals, drugs, pharmaceutical supplies, oils, paints, colors, varnishes, greases, railroad material and machinery, paper and printing machinery, refrigerators and cold-storage machinery, and machinery in general. References.

25718.*—An agency on a commission basis is desired by a man in France for the sale of machine tools for metallurgy. Correspondence should be in French. Reference.

25719.†—A man in Australia desires to secure an agency for the sale of all kinds of piece and manufactured soft goods, textiles, floor coverings of all kinds, boots and shoes, shoe findings, corsets, hosiery, millinery, glass and glassware, earthenware, paper, carton and strawboard, tobacco, canned goods, confectionery, and cocoa. Payment will probably be made by sight draft. References.

25720.*—A company in Italy desires to purchase alternate current motors, 42 periods, voltage to be 100 up to 50 kilowatts, 3,600 to exceed 60-70 kilowatts. Cash will be paid. Correspondence should be in Italian.

25721.*—A man in France is in the market for looms for hosiery and glove making, 10-warp looms and 10 looms called Milanalse. Correspondence should be in French. Reference.

25722.*—An agency is desired by a firm in Argentina for the sale of electrical supplies and equipment. Correspondence may be in English. Reference.

25723.*—A company in Italy wishes to buy large quantities of all kinds of saws, such as circular saws, strap saws, etc. Catalogues should be submitted. Credit will be opened in New York for payment. Correspondence may be in French, but Italian is preferred. Reference.

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No. 256 Washington, D. C., Thursday, November 1 1917

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EXPORTS OF RUBBER FROM BRAZIL AND PERU FOR SEPTEMBER.

[Consul George H. Pickereil, Para, Brazil, Oct. 6.]

The total exports of crude rubber from Para and Manaus, Brazil, and Iquitos, Peru, during the month of September, 1917, amounted to 5,016,141 pounds, compared with 4,992,538 pounds for the same month in 1916. Shipments to the United States aggregated 2,499,102 pounds and to Europe 2,517,039 pounds, compared with 3,007,810 and 1,984,728 pounds, respectively, last year.

The several grades of rubber exported are shown in the following table:

Grade.	From Para, Brazil.		From Manaus, Brazil.		From Iquitos, Peru.	
	To United States.	To Europe.	To United States.	To Europe.	To United States.	To Europe.
	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>
Fine.....	561,801	788,915	373,705	822,070	86,930	48,765
Medium.....	45,189	22,611	84,823	98,734	2,000	3,994
Coarse.....	493,452	29,629	146,940	8,423	36,128	10,608
Cauchou.....	371,227	190,720	184,736	123,605	112,153	361,945
Total.....	1,471,669	1,031,875	790,222	1,059,852	237,211	425,312

STAMPS ON CHECKS AND DRAFTS IN PANAMA.

[Consul General Alban G. Snyder, Panama City, Oct. 5.]

The President of the Republic of Panama, considering that the provisions of the new fiscal code, which became effective October 1, and governs the use of stamps on checks and drafts, are prohibitive in effect, has issued a decree authorizing the use of the 1-cent stamp on all checks and drafts until the provisions mentioned may be remedied at the next meeting of the National Assembly.

GROWING TRADE WITH NEW ZEALAND IN ELECTRICAL GOODS

The improved position that is being attained by the United States in sales of electrical goods to New Zealand during the war is expected to continue after normal conditions have been restored. An increased volume of trade will be produced in part by a more widespread use of electricity in that country, according to a report that has been published by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce. A greater demand for the various appliances that add to the comfort of living is predicted.

The standard of living is good in the island, says the report, and there is an absence of a poor class, but there are some modern conveniences of which the people have not generally taken advantage. In the electrical field this is quite noticeable, a fact attributed in part to the rigid requirements of the fire underwriters and in part to the natural conservatism of the people.

Of the total imports of \$2,300,000 worth of electrical goods in 1913, the United States supplied 15 per cent, England 65 per cent, Germany 5 per cent, and Sweden about 5.4 per cent. In 1914, during which the war made itself felt on shipping, the total imports were valued at \$2,136,000, of which the United States contributed 14.4 per cent, England 66 per cent, Germany 8.6 per cent, and Sweden 4.4 per cent. Imports amounted to \$1,934,000 in 1915, the first complete year under war conditions, the United States supplying 18.8 per cent, England 70 per cent, Germany 0.7 per cent, and Sweden 4.2 per cent. Japan appeared in the field in 1915 with sales amounting to \$12,800.

The Bureau's report entitled "Electrical goods in New Zealand," Special Agents' Series No. 147, analyzes carefully the trade in electrical goods as it has been carried on, and calls attention to a number of shortcomings in American methods that ought to be remedied. Copies may be obtained for the nominal price of 5 cents from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C., or from the district and cooperative offices of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

STEEL-MILL PROJECT IN HOLLAND.

[Consul Frank W. Mahlin, Amsterdam, Sept. 29.]

A meeting of interested parties, at which the Government was represented, has just been held to consider the creation of an important new enterprise for Holland—a smelting furnace and a steel and rolling mill. A joint-stock company is contemplated with a capital of 25,000,000 florins (\$10,050,000), of which the Government, if the Parliament approved, would take about a third.

The plant would be at Ymuiden, at the entrance of the North Sea Canal, and therefore at a most convenient spot for imports of raw materials.

The preliminary details of the project have been formulated by a committee of important and influential Dutchmen engaged in manufacturing, financial, commercial, and shipping operations.

While all arrangements would be made as soon as practicable, it is not proposed to attempt construction of the plant until the war ends.

NEW ZEALAND'S MINERAL EXPORTS IN 1916.

[Consul General Alfred A. Winslow, Auckland.]

The value of the minerals exported from New Zealand, together with the coal consumed in the Dominion, during 1916 amounted to \$14,494,559, compared with \$16,422,116 for 1915. The decrease was more than accounted for by the abnormal shipment of gold during 1915, owing to the export restrictions in 1914. The export of gold for 1916 amounted to \$5,835,965, against \$8,246,542 in 1915. The output of coal in 1916 was the second largest output New Zealand has had, and the output per person underground (750 tons) was the highest ever attained here.

The following table shows the quantity and value of the various minerals exported from the Dominion and the quantity and value of the coal consumed in the country during 1915 and 1916:

Minerals.	1915		1916	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
Gold.....	422,825	\$8,246,542	292,620	\$5,835,965
Silver.....	957,541	465,155	787,053	414,193
Tungsten ore.....	194	135,211	266	238,800
Coal:				
Exported.....	323,992	1,604,636	328,193	1,589,170
Consumed.....	1,894,632	4,585,781	1,928,952	4,693,622
Kauri gum.....	4,575	1,358,400	5,448	1,651,413
Other minerals.....	3,473	26,391	7,368	71,396
Total.....		16,422,116		14,494,559

* The value of the bullion produced, as stated in official returns from the mines, was \$5,801,826.

After the lapse of several years the distillation of kauri-gum oil from peat taken from the kauri-gum swamps north of Auckland was resumed during the year. The peat yields from 20 to 30 gallons per ton, of which about 25 per cent may be used in place of gasoline or benzene for propelling motor cars.

LAW AFFECTS FOREIGNERS' RESIDENCE IN CHRISTIANIA.

[Consul General William Coffin, Christiania, Norway, Sept. 22.]

The law of July 13, 1917, restricting the right of foreigners to reside within certain communities in Norway, has been made to apply to Christiania by a regulation from the Department of Justice. According to paragraph 2 of the law apartments and all other rooms used as places in which to live can not be rented for a longer period than two weeks to persons who are not Norwegian subjects without the permission of the rent control commissioner. This law is to be effective for all cases, whether the room is rented by itself or together with board, light, heat, or service, and without reference to the fact that it is rented in accordance with previous regulations.

In general, the law is not to be effective for persons who have resided continuously in Christiania since August 1, 1914, nor for persons who are Norwegian subjects by birth and who desire to remain permanently in Norway. It applies to renewals as well as to new leases.

GREAT ORGANIZATION REPRESENTS CANADIAN GRAIN MEN.

[Consul Felix S. S. Johnson, Kingston, Ontario, Oct. 15.]

A new argicultural organization has been incorporated in Canada under the name of the United Grain Growers (Ltd.). The charter provides that no person shall own more than 100 shares, and at annual meetings no person shall have more than one vote. The shareholders all belong to affiliated societies, which are called "locals." These are established, as a rule, wherever one of the company's elevators happens to be located.

Before an elevator can be built at any point, the shareholders who are to form themselves into a cooperative unit or society to support the United Grain Growers (Ltd.), must have at least 2,000 acres of land under cultivation for every 10,000 bushels of capacity in the elevator. There must be at least 287 shares of the company's stock sold in a single local society, and there must be at least 40 shareholders.

Sells Product of Its Shareholders.

The chief function of this organization is to buy and sell grain; probably it would be more exact to say to sell the grain grown by its shareholders. In addition to the 330 county elevators, which are spread throughout the western part of Canada, the company has a large selling or commission office at Winnipeg, terminal elevators at Fort William with a combined capacity of 3,100,000 bushels, and an export selling department in New York.

The cooperative supply department of the United Grain Growers (Ltd.) is the purchasing medium for the organized farmers. At Winnipeg, Regina, and Calgary large warehouses belonging to the grain growers are stocked with supplies of all kinds which are brought direct from the manufacturers in the United States or Canada, so that the organized farmers may be able to buy their materials at the lowest possible price. In these warehouses are kept such articles as farm machinery, binder twine, fence wire, lumber posts, apples, salt, flour, and feed. In addition to these supplies, a vast quantity of coal is purchased and distributed at the lowest possible cost. The organization has 165 coal sheds.

Large Supply of Timber Available.

The grain growers have a fine timber limit near Fort George, British Columbia, 425 miles west of Edmonton. On it is at least 250,000,000 feet of spruce, cedar, and fir timber. A mill is to be installed on this limit, and the new company proposes to commence operating it in June, 1918. It will be capable of producing 75,000 feet of lumber per 10-hour day.

The United Grain Growers (Ltd.) also publishes the Grain Growers' Guide, which has a circulation of 30,000.

The creation of the new organization closes an interesting period in the history of the organized farmers of western Canada. Ten years ago the Grain Growers (Ltd.) started business with the small capital of \$5,000; to-day the authorized capital is fixed at \$5,000,000, the subscribed capital amounts to \$3,000,000, and the amount of paid-up capital is \$2,000,000. There is also in reserve at present \$1,250,000.

NATIONAL REGULATION OF FORESTS IN ITALY.

[Vice Consul Quincy F. Roberts, Genoa, Sept. 18.]

The *Gazzetta Ufficiale*, published at Rome, September 12, 1917, contains a regulation of the Commissary General for national combustibles in regard to the cutting of forests which are subject to forestal restriction. It is required that the rules in force in the various Provinces shall always be observed, and that any departure from them shall be treated as unlawful, except as regards the dates assigned for the cuttings, which may be made in any season. Regulations are made also for forests which are not subject to forestal restriction.

In cutting forests of high growth not subject to forestal restrictions at least 50 adult plants per hectare (2.47 acres) must always be spared. They must be regularly distributed and capable of assuring the reproduction of the forest itself. All the young plants must be preserved.

Gives Authority to Prohibit Pasturage.

In the case of forests whose preservation is necessary for any reason whatsoever, upon proposal of the forestal offices, prohibition of pasturage may be imposed for the period necessary to assure the reproduction of the forest.

In forests of conifers the cutting of plants which have not reached a height of 1 meter and 30 centimeters (4.26 feet) and are less than 15 centimeters (5.9 inches) in diameter is prohibited, except in case of cutting for thinning or clearing.

In case they are justified and the forestal offices have been heard permits contrary to this regulation may be granted by the commissary.

FUTURE OF FRANCO-CANADIAN TRADE.

[Monetary Times of Canada, Oct. 12.]

A substantial increase in the trade relations between France and Canada, following the war, appears now to be more than a possibility. In order to promote such an exchange Canadian manufacturers should be willing to go more than halfway toward making business between the two countries mutually profitable. Canada has the goods that France will need, particularly raw materials and machinery, which will be more largely employed after the war to make up for the tremendous loss of productivity during hostilities. On the other hand, France can supply Canada with a large proportion of the manufactured articles formerly purchased from Germany. Canadian exporters will find the French banking system excellent, and they will have no difficulty in establishing relations through these banks. The French trader pays his financial obligations promptly and wishes to conduct his business on a cash basis. Means of transportation are adequate and numerous. Water transport is cheap and rapid. The fact that much of the mileage in the country is administered by the State subjects the lines to a greater degree of control than if they were privately controlled. The strong desire for close trade relations between the two countries is evinced by the large number of replies received from the French firms solicited by the Ministry of Commerce and the commissioner general for Canada in Paris.

INCREASED PRICES OF CLOTHING AND SHOES IN NORWAY.

[Consul Henry C. A. Damm, Stavanger, Sept. 21.]

A local newspaper recently made an investigation among the local dealers in dry goods, clothing, and shoes concerning the increase in prices of such articles during the last three years. The following information was obtained and published:

The price of dry goods has increased up to 200 per cent. Dress goods, which before the war cost \$1.10 to \$1.22 a yard, now cost \$3.20 to \$3.43 a yard. Seamstresses charge from \$5.35 to \$8 more for making a dress. Findings are much higher in price, so that a dress that in 1914 cost \$13 to \$16 now costs double that amount. Finer qualities of dress goods are no longer obtainable from factories, and what little there is to be had now costs \$7.35 a yard against \$2.95 to \$3.70.

Men's winter overcoats, which formerly could be bought for \$13.50 to \$16, now cost \$32. The only men's suiting now obtainable is the cheaper grades (comparatively speaking) of English manufacture and the coarser Norwegian goods.

Woolen underwear is unobtainable. The peasants now sell their wool, which is bringing \$0.60 to \$0.73 a pound, instead of knitting stockings and vests. There are only factory-made hose available, men's socks costing \$0.48 to \$0.80 a pair, against \$0.24 to \$0.32.

The price of cotton underwear has also risen proportionately, and the supply is very limited.

Silk Goods Available—Scarcity of Footwear.

Silk has remained most reasonable in price, and it is now cheaper than wool cloth. There is considerable silk dress goods in stock here and can be bought for \$2.45 to \$3.43 a yard, which is 50 per cent above prewar prices. Owing to embargoes on the part of Germany and England, silks will be scarcer and dearer in the future.

Although the demand is considerable for rubber overshoes in this city, due to weather conditions, it is difficult to get supplies. In 1914 women's rubber shoes cost \$0.95 and men's \$1.40 a pair. The prices now are \$1.60 and \$2.40, respectively.

The shoe situation is critical; imports have practically ceased and the Norwegian factories are almost without material. Men's shoes, which in 1914 could be bought for \$4.85, now cost \$10.20, and women's shoes have gone up from \$4 and \$4.30 in 1914 to \$8 and \$9.38 at present. The increase is due to the much greater cost of materials entering into the manufacture of shoes.

Price of Leather and Shoe Findings.

A member of the Norwegian Shoe Manufacturers' Association compiled figures showing the prices of materials and findings for the manufacture of shoes as prevailing in 1913 and in 1917. The figures follow:

Material.		Price in 1913.	Price in 1917.
Sele leather.....	pound.....	\$0.39 to \$0.37	\$1.05
Rough leather.....	do.....	.43 to .49	\$1.22 to 1.46
Box calf leather.....	square feet.....	.24 to .27	.80 to 1.07
Cotton linings.....	yard.....	.12 to .15	.29 to .37
Thread.....	dozen cops.....	7.34 to 10.18	24.12 to 26.48
Paste.....	pound.....	.067 to .073	.24 to .36
Pegs.....	do.....	.11 to .17	1.34 to 1.46

Wages have risen 50 to 70 per cent and operating expenses at factories have increased fourfold, inclusive of the enormously increased cost of fuel.

COST OF BARRELS FOR SHIPPING BERMUDA'S POTATOES.

[Vice Consul S. W. Eells, Hamilton, Oct. 16.]

Almost the entire annual crop of Bermuda Potatoes is exported in barrels. Last year about 80,000 were required. Prior to 1916 only second-hand ones were used, the farmers buying empty flour barrels, employing those in which their seed was imported and purchasing the rest in the United States. During the past few years, however, the price of second-hand barrels has increased from 18 to 51½ cents f. o. b. New York. Freight rates from New York have reached 39 cents net each, making the cost of a second-hand barrel more than 90 cents at the wharf in Hamilton. To this must be added the cost of carting to the farms. In spite of this it is estimated that from 40,000 to 50,000 were imported last year.

American and Canadian Products.

As a result of this enormous increase one of the commission firms last spring imported 10,000 barrels in shooks from Canada. This year it expects 25,000 to 30,000 from that source. The freight rate from both the United States and Canada is 12 cents per cubic foot, plus 5 and 25 per cent. This firm expects to sell completed barrels at 66 cents each, and shooks at 60 cents per barrel f. o. b. Hamilton. The cost of coopering is 6 cents. The firm states that the lowest offer it has received from the United States is such that the selling price for a barrel made from American shooks would be 73 cents. It asserts that American staves and heads are more brittle than those of Canadian manufacture, which are of thicker materials. This same firm is prepared this year to sell American secondhand complete barrels at 92 cents each.

Farmers Prefer Barrel from United States.

Another firm is importing this year about 20,000 shooks from the United States, and expects to sell the completed barrel to the farmers at 72 cents. It is said that the farmer prefers the American barrel on account of its appearance, as it has a larger bilge than the Canadian barrel, which has nearly perpendicular sides; but of course he will use the cheaper package. The farmers generally are taking to the knocked-down barrel, and many intend to do their own coopering.

The difference in price between American and Canadian shooks is due to the higher cost of the raw material in the United States, inasmuch as the freight rate is the same from both countries. Other things being equal the farmer would buy the American barrel on account of its appearance. American manufacturers, therefore, in order to compete in the Bermuda market, must make a stronger barrel at a lower price.

SICILIAN SULPHUR EXPORTS AND SUPPLIES ON HAND.

[Consul Robertson Honey, Catania, Italy, Oct. 6.]

The decrease in exports of sulphur from Sicily continues. During the first seven months of 1917 Catania exported 24,882 metric tons (of 2,204.6 pounds) of crude and refined sulphur, as against 74,868 tons for the corresponding period of 1916. All Sicily (including Catania) exported 86,656 tons during the first seven months of 1917, as against 319,168 tons in 1916. On July 31, 1917, Catania had on hand 48,944 tons, as against 30,254 tons on the corresponding date in 1916; all Sicily (including Catania) had on hand on the same date 152,243 tons, as against 144,167 tons in 1916.

MANUFACTURE OF WINTERGREEN OIL IN INDIA.

The following note by Mr. Puran Singh, chemical adviser to Forest Research Institute, Dehra Dun, is reprinted in the Indian (Government) Trade Journal from Indian Forest Records:

As early as 1867 Broughton proved that methyl salicylate is found in the leaves of *Gaultheria fragrantissima* Wall. The plant occurs in Assam, in the Nilgiris, and on the hills near Toungoo, in Burma, but up to this time apparently no effort has been made to utilize it for the manufacture of wintergreen oil (the commercial name for methyl salicylate), which could, in turn, form the starting point from which to make natural salicylic acid and natural sodium salicylate. An inquiry was therefore instituted to collect data as to the possibility of the manufacture of wintergreen oil in India. This note embodies the results obtained. The leaves obtained from the Nilgiris and from Assam have been distilled on a commercial scale, and the figures of profit and loss have been worked out, based on the actual yield of water-free filtered oil.

Gaultheria fragrantissima Wall. is also known as *G. Leschenaultii* DC. and *G. punctata* Bl. Brandis describes it as occurring in Nepal, Sikkim, at an altitude of 6,000 to 8,000 feet; also on the Bhutan and the Khasi Hills and on the hills east of Toungoo at 6,000 to 7,000 feet. It grows gregariously on the Nilgiris. It occurs in the Palni Hills, in the hills of Travancore, in Ceylon, in the upper mountain zone of Yunnan, and on the mountains of Java and Sumatra. Mr. J. Copeland, the conservator of forests, Chamba, informed the writer that he never saw the plant on the Punjab hills, though he came across it very frequently in Burma.

Distillation Processes—Conclusions Reached.

The distillation of *Gaultheria* oil presents certain difficulties. By ordinary steam distillation the writer had little success. The notes made by him as to the best method of distillation are, briefly, as follows: Entire branches of *Gaultheria* should be taken for distillation, as it does not pay to separate the leaves from the stalks. The *Gaultheria* branches should be chopped fine before putting them in the still. The still should be provided with a closed coil inside it for maintaining and increasing the heat. This may be done by admitting steam at about 80 pounds pressure. The pressure in the boiler should be kept uniformly at 70 to 80 pounds. It takes about 6 hours for a charge to distil over. The catch still will render the oil almost colorless, requiring no further rectification. The most economical scale of work will be to take about 1 ton per charge. If it be not possible to set up a steam distillation plant (which is by far the most economical arrangement), crude distillation is advocated in 200 to 400 gallon whisky stills. The latter size gives better results than the former unless the steam is used at high pressure. The oil, being heavier than water, settles at the bottom of the Florentine receiver and not on the top, as is generally the case. * * *

The yield of oil from the whole Nilgiri plant, excluding the woody stalk near the roots, should therefore be taken as 0.12 per cent. This, of course, applies to the sample as available in the winter season. It is possible that it may rise to 0.22 per cent during the spring. Even this percentage of oil is very poor, though *Gaultheria* giving such a poor yield of oil is not altogether unknown. According to De Vrig, the fresh leaves and stalks of *Gaultheria leucocarpa* Blume, indigenous to Java, yield only 0.012 per cent of oil; while, on the other hand, the leaves and stalks of *Gaultheria fragrantissima* of Java give upon distillation as much as 1.15 per cent of oil. * * *

From what has been said above the following conclusions are summarized:

(1) *Gaultheria* growing in the Nilgiris is poorer in oil content than that found in Assam, the former having 0.12 per cent and the latter 0.68 per cent, as determined by distilling the leaf with the stalk in the winter season. It is probable that in the spring the yield of oil will be much larger.

(2) The distillation of wintergreen oil promises to be a profitable industry in Assam, provided adequate arrangements are made to cultivate the plant, in order to obtain a constant and sufficient supply of leaves.

(3) The Nilgiri plant is too poor in oil content to be considered as a commercial source of *Gaultheria* oil.

ADEN AS A MARKET FOR CONFECTIONERY.

[Consul Addison E. Southard, Aden, Arabia, Aug. 15.]

Aden normally imports an annual average of \$35,000 worth of confectionery, but since the beginning of the war this average has fallen to slightly under \$30,000. The demand for confectionery has not decreased, but supplies have not been as readily obtainable as in peace times. The restriction of exports from the United Kingdom has affected the local trade, as normally more than 95 per cent of Aden's confectionery imports come from there. As a consequence there have been decreased supplies and higher prices.

Imports Chiefly Hard and Semihard Mixed Candies.

The bulk of the imported sweets are of the various classes of hard and semihard mixed candies. The Arabs, Indians, Somalis, and Jews, in the order named, use considerable quantities of these candies on festive occasions, such as marriage and birthday celebrations, and on feast days in general. The Arabs who can afford it always have plates of candies in their "mabrazes" or sitting rooms for the guests who may call as well as for members of the family. A great deal of this candy is consumed by the Arabs while eating khat. The khat habit is widely and generally practiced, and often in the intervals between fresh chews of khat a piece of candy is eaten.

Khat is the Arabic name for a shrub (*Catha edulis*, natural order *Celastraceæ*), which, so far as is known, grows only in the Turkish Yemen and in the Harrar district of Abyssinia. The young leaves and tender stems are chewed. Khat has a stimulating effect upon the nerve and brain cells, and is supposed to cheer the melancholy and to give strength to the weary. It is eaten only when fresh and is very expensive in Aden. The wealthier Arabs gather at specified hours in the afternoon and at night, in either public or private "mabrazes," for khat chewing and combine with it the reading of stories or of the Koran, singing, or serious conversation. The laborer, whenever he can afford it, chews khat as he works.

Style of Container Used.

The bulk of the hard candy sold here is manufactured by a well-known firm in England. It comes packed in sealed tins of 7 pounds capacity. There are 40 of these tins to a wooden case. The price per case before the war was from \$6.50 to \$7, and the latest price is from \$12.50 to \$14.50, with limited supplies obtainable. One of the 7-pound tins of this candy sold before the war for \$0.57, and the present price is almost double. The retail price per single pound was \$0.10, and has now increased to \$0.20. The flavors most liked by the natives are lemon and banana, although the candies are often of assorted flavors.

Hard candies of very much the same quality are also imported in 1-pound glass containers tightly closed with screw tops. The prices for these 1-pound containers are naturally somewhat higher than for the bulk candy, and only the small European population and the wealthier natives buy their sweets in this form.

Chocolates, toffee, and similar fancy grades of sweets are imported in pound and half-pound packages. A considerable quantity of these grades is consumed by the European and wealthier natives. All are packed in tightly sealed tins or bottles. This method of packing is

highly important in order that the contents may be kept fresh and presentable in this climate.

"A B C" Lozenges Popular.

The natives are fond of another class of confectionery known as "A B C" lozenges, which come in assorted flavors and colors. They are manufactured in England. These sweets can be sold economically in small quantities, as they are usually packed in bulk—generally in tin-lined barrels containing a hundredweight (112 pounds). Eight or ten pieces are given for a pice (one-half cent). These lozenges are somewhat cheaper to the dealer than the hard candies packed in the 7-pound tins. He can retail them at a lower price, and also benefits by the sale of the barrel and the tin container, for which he receives about 25 cents each. This is extra profit. Should he retail the candy which comes in the 7-pound tins, he also adds to his profit, as for each empty tin he receives 8 cents and for the wooden case as much as 40 or 50 cents. These items may seem small, but they are carefully considered by the native dealer, who usually works for a small profit in handling goods of this sort.

The "A B C" lozenges resemble in composition the little flat pieces of candy known as "mottoes," which are so popular in the candy stores in America that cater to children's trade. "Mottoes" are in the shape of hearts, squares, circles, ovals, etc., and have stamped on them, usually in red, various little mottoes. If a selected lot of short and simple mottoes in Arabic, instead of English, were stamped on these pieces of candy, it is believed they would have a fair sale in this district, as such confectionery novelties appeal very much to the average native. The lozenges above referred to are smaller than "mottoes" and have one letter of the alphabet stamped on each piece; hence the name of "A B C." If the letters of the Arabic alphabet were used they would be even more popular.

Mottoes in the Arabic Language.

The idea of Arabic "mottoes" and Arabic "A B C's" has been suggested to local shopkeepers familiar with the trade, and they think it likely that such a confectionery novelty would meet with a good and permanent demand. This candy, while designed especially for the comparatively limited Aden trade, would undoubtedly meet with a good demand in any district having a considerable Arab population. Taking all such districts into consideration, the possible market would be large enough to be well worth entering.

Should any American manufacturer be interested in the idea, this consulate will be glad to obtain further details and to furnish a few appropriate mottoes, as well as letters of the alphabet, written in Arabic in such form as might be desired to make possible the preparation of the die, stamp, or other device used for stamping the pieces of candy. Local shopkeepers have an indistinct recollection of having many years ago had small shipments of Arabic "mottoes" from Germany, but so far as they know there has been nothing of the sort on the market in recent years.

The value of the locally made sweets which are consumed is estimated to be greater than that of the imported sweets. By far the most important of the locally made sweets is "Turkish Delight." The principal ingredients of this confection are sugar and American

starch. Flavoring is added, and for the fancy grades almond or groundnut kernels are used. "Turkish Delight" often makes up the bulk of the Arab breakfast and sometimes contributes largely to his other meals. There are many grades, but those most used range in price from 8 to 25 cents a pound. The best quality is known as "Hallawat-Alloaz," which, translated, means "almond cake." It is quite unlikely that imported sweets of this sort could compete with those produced locally, which exactly suit the native taste and pocketbook. This confection is not manufactured in any one place on a large scale, but is almost entirely the product of the small native home and shop industries.

Possible Opening for American Sweetmeats.

There are said to be on hand in Aden and Bombay fair supplies of the imported sweets, but inasmuch as the obtainment of fresh supplies from the usual source will not be possible so long as the war lasts it would seem that American manufacturers might be able to introduce their product here if a way to ship it can be found. [A list of Aden importers of confectionery may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district and co-operative offices by referring to file No. 93356.]

There are no customs duties to be paid upon sweets imported into Aden. The commercial language is English. Quotations should be, is possible, in terms of English or Indian currency, and c. i. f. Aden. The largest importers of sweets in Aden have usually deposited 5 per cent in advance and paid the remainder of the bill, upon arrival of the goods, by cash against documents through the local bank.

AMERICAN FOREIGN TRADE IN SEPTEMBER.

American exports in September totaled \$456,201,567, according to a statement just issued by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, of the Department of Commerce. This is a decrease of approximately \$34,000,000 compared with August, but a gain of \$80,000,000 as compared with July. For the nine months ended with September the total exports were \$4,607,817,178, a gain of \$657,000,000 over the similar period in 1916.

Imports in September also fell off, the total being \$236,196,898, as compared with \$270,509,379 in August. The total imports for the nine months ended with September were \$2,282,794,503, a gain of \$450,000,000 over the corresponding nine months in 1916.

The imports of gold in September totaled \$4,171,535; the exports \$31,332,396. For the nine months ended with September the imports of gold were \$528,332,442 and the exports \$348,968,514.

Imports of silver in September are announced as \$5,796,320 and the exports as \$10,465,079. For the nine months' period, silver to the amount of \$33,050,102 was imported, while the exports totaled \$62,233,662.

Consul General Wilber reports from Genoa that the Italian Food Committee has ordered that in the requisitioning of carobs a maximum price of 35 lire (lira=19.3 cents at par) per quintal (220.46 pounds) must be observed for goods of the best quality.

ANNUAL REPORT OF NETHERLANDS TRADING CO.

[Paul L. Edwards, clerk to commercial attaché, The Hague, Netherlands.]

The Netherlands Trading Co., which owns extensive sugar, tobacco, tea, rubber, and other plantations in Java, and which acts as purchasing and distributing agent for the Dutch Government in the East Indies, has just issued its report for the year 1916. This report gives a brief description of the conditions which Dutch trade may expect to face after the present war.

It points out that during the war there has been a heavy demand for capital to build up the new industries that have been called into being for the purpose of supplying articles which formerly were imported from sources now cut off. It may be expected that, after the war, foreign countries which used to sell goods to Holland and its colonies on long terms of credit will sell only for cash, and that Dutch, not foreign, bankers will be expected to finance such transactions.

After-the-War Credits—Company's Profit.

According to this report, it may also be expected that foreign cartels and even foreign Governments will endeavor to control the trade in certain articles in such a way as to make the sale of those articles bring not only the highest possible price, but also the greatest amount of goods which may be desired in exchange. Holland's vast gold supply will be a valuable asset in arranging such exchanges. The Netherlands Trading Co. is already shaping its course with the expectation that foreign credits for the financing of Dutch imports and exports will not be available after the war.

Owing to the poor shipping connections between Holland and its colonies and the uncertainty of mail service, a large part of the ever-increasing trade between the United States and the Dutch East Indies has come to be financed by means of dollar credits. This has caused a great loss to the Amsterdam banks. Whether this trade will continue to be financed in dollar credits after the war, or whether florin credits will displace the dollar credits, is now considered problematical.

The company has a profit balance of 11,350,150 florins (\$4,562,760 at normal exchange) for 1916, which will allow a 15 per cent dividend on the capital stock of 60,000,000 florins (\$24,120,000) and leave a considerable balance for distribution among the managers and directors.

A Good Year for the Dutch East Indies.

From an economic point of view, 1916 was a good year for the Dutch East Indies. The prices of almost all export articles remained at a high level. This was particularly true of agricultural products, which are the most important export articles.

In order to make the State railways and tramways of Java as nearly as possible independent of imported coal, an inquiry was instituted into the possibility of developing the Bajah coal fields in Bantam. If these investigations turn out favorably, the Government may revoke various coal concessions and take over the work of development.

Various large harbor works, which are now in the course of construction, will be pushed to completion in 1917.

Everything possible will be done to develop the wireless service between the colonies and the home country, now that it has been proved that this long-distance wireless communication is practicable.

Sugar and Tea.

Sugar planting in 1916 was exceptionably profitable. Prices remained at a high level during the whole year. The total production was 26,408,000 piculs (Dutch East Indies picul=136.16 pounds), as against 21,178,000 piculs in 1915. A total of 521,000 piculs was shipped to Holland, and part of this was forwarded to Switzerland. Further export figures follow:

Exported to—	1915	1916	Exported to—	1915	1916
	<i>Piculs.</i>	<i>Piculs.</i>		<i>Piculs.</i>	<i>Piculs.</i>
Australia.....	757,000	92,000	Japan.....	880,000	822,000
British India.....	7,282,000	6,388,000	Norway.....		198,000
China.....	2,182,000	2,400,000	All other countries.....	1,918,000	2,236,000
England and France.....	4,820,000	9,923,000			
Italy.....		340,000	Total.....	18,838,000	22,396,000

The tea trade was very profitable. Owing to the difficulties of over-sea trade the producers of tea chose to sell on the Batavia market instead of risking ocean shipments. Thus, 37,422,000 half-kilos (half-kilo=1.1023 pounds) were sold in Batavia in 1916, as compared with 29,245,000 half-kilos in 1915. A large part of the tea went to Russia. The total harvest in Java was 94,096,000 half-kilos in 1916, as compared with 92,362,000 half-kilos in 1915.

Rubber, Coffee, Tobacco, and Quinine.

The rubber production totaled 28,200 metric tons (metric ton=2,204.6 pounds), as compared with 15,700 tons in 1915. Prices were excellent. Owing to the difficulties which stood in the way of free traffic between the Dutch East Indies and Europe a great part of this rubber was shipped direct to America.

The high coffee prices ruling in the first half of 1916 netted large profits for Dutch East Indian producers. However, as the free shipment of coffee to Holland did not continue (only 30 per cent of the first-class Java and Robusta harvest was allowed to go to Holland), prices of Robusta fell from 100 florins to 32.50 florins per picul (from about \$0.30 to about \$0.09 a pound). Java coffee varied in price between 51 and 100 florins per picul (between \$0.15 and \$0.30 a pound), and Liberia ranged from 52 to 55 florins (about \$0.16 to \$0.18 a pound). Of the total output of 847,507 piculs of coffee in 1916, Government plantations produced 49,134 piculs and private plantations 798,373 piculs—the latter consisting of 44,428 piculs of Java, 37,351 piculs of Liberia, and 716,594 piculs of Robusta coffee.

Sumatra tobacco was also profitable; 237,000 packages of it (package=50 kilos, or 110.23 pounds) were sold in the Netherlands in 1916, against 232,911 packages in 1915 and 246,543 packages in 1914. The Java tobacco sold in the Dutch home market in 1916 totaled 775,337 packages, as compared with 490,387 packages in 1915. The average 1916 price was approximately twice as high as the average 1915 price.

The fact that the average price of cinchona bark was 65 per cent higher in 1916 than in 1915 stimulated the production of this article,

so that 8,412 metric tons were exported in 1916 as compared with 5,175 metric tons in 1915.

Other Exports—The Import Trade.

The rice crops in 1916 and 1915 were about the same in size, approximately 98,000,000 piculs (roughly, 6,125,000 metric tons) for each year. Exportation of rice declined to 9,800 metric tons. Prices remained very stable. There was an increase in the importation of foreign rice into Java and Madoera—1915 importation, 333,000 metric tons; 1916 importation, 397,000 metric tons.

Exportation of coconut oil increased from 5,575,000 liters (1,472,750 gallons) in 1915 to 10,826,000 liters (2,859,900 gallons) in 1916.

The production of pepper fell from 180,000 piculs in 1915 to 120,000 piculs in 1916. Prices were much stimulated by heavy demands from England, the United States, and Russia, varying from 31 to 49 florins per picul (from 9 to 14 cents a pound).

Prices of kapok fluctuated between 31 and 32 florins per picul in 1916 (between 9.1 and 9.5 cents a pound). The 1916 exports were 151,000 piculs, and in 1915 175,000 piculs.

Owing to the obstacles which continually interfered with free freight communications between Holland and the Dutch East Indies, Japan and the United States both stepped in as purveyors of many articles that formerly came from or by way of the home country.

MAKING THE FREIGHT CARS DO MORE WORK.

[Consul José de Olivares, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, Oct. 24.]

The Board of Railway Commissioners for Canada has issued, through the board of trade at Hamilton, Ontario, a circular pointing out some of the material benefits to be derived from the efficient handling of freight cars. The text of the circular follows:

War conditions interfere with car movements. The weather conditions of winter last year increased the congestion, and the coming winter may repeat this. Additional freight cars can be obtained only with great difficulty. Prompt deliveries of new rolling stock do not exist.

If each freight car does more work, the difficulty can be faced and overcome. A freight car saved is a freight car gained for extra service. More service per car equals more cars in service. If all shippers load to full capacity or better, to 110 per cent, when practicable, the car shortage will largely disappear.

Railways, by cutting out road delays and by improved handling in terminals, can make each car do more work. Prompt and heavy loading of cars gives more service per car. So also does prompt release of cars. Consignors and consignees are interested in getting cars. Their cooperation in efficient car handling will help not only others, but themselves as well.

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NEW ORLEANS: 1020 Hibernia Bank Building.
SAN FRANCISCO: 307 Customhouse.
SEATTLE: 848 Henry Building.

COOPERATIVE OFFICES.

CLEVELAND: Chamber of Commerce.
CINCINNATI: Chamber of Commerce.
CINCINNATI: General Freight Agent, Southern Railway, 96 Ingalls Building.
LOS ANGELES: Chamber of Commerce.
PHILADELPHIA: Chamber of Commerce.
CHATTANOOGA: South American Agent, Southern Railway System.
PORTLAND, OREG.: Chamber of Commerce.
DAYTON: Greater Dayton Association.

IMPORTATION OF AMERICAN APPLES IN AUSTRALIA.

[Howard A. Treat, Secretary to Commercial Attaché, Melbourne.]

It is announced that, following a conference with the representatives of fruit importers and Tasmanian fruit growers, the Prime minister of Australia has agreed to allow the importation of a limited quantity of American apples during November and December. One of the conditions precedent is that the imported apples shall not be placed upon the market earlier than November 1, nor be allowed to remain on the market later than December 31. The following summary of an article in the Melbourne Age of September 9, reporting the representations made to the Prime Minister by delegations from Tasmania and other States of Australia, affords an idea of the situation which resulted in the lifting of the embargo:

Spokesmen for the importers of Queensland and New South Wales, in urging the removal of the prohibition, stated that Australian apples in storage were fast becoming exhausted and it was desired to import only a small quantity of American fruit. American apples of the fall harvest were needed for trade in the remote districts, while the cities could be supplied with Australian stored fruit. The petition of the Tasmanian representatives that the import prohibition on American fruit be continued was answered with the statement that Tasmanian apples which were picked in May and kept in cold storage for months are liable to spoil when shipped to any considerable distance. The Prime Minister suggested that the quantity of Australian apples available be ascertained and that the importers who wished to obtain American fruit should communicate with the Australian growers and holders of apples and should give satisfactory assurance that the Australian grower would not be exploited but would receive a fair price for his apples. When Australian interests had been provided for the Government could then allow American apples to be imported until the end of December. The Tasmanian representative feared that the American imports might be used to regulate the market to the disadvantage of Tasmanian sales. Ten shillings a case was finally named as the price which the Australian buyers would guarantee for the Tasmanian purchases. Under these conditions the removal of the embargo against American imports was regarded more favorably.

NEW YEAR'S GREETINGS TO LATIN AMERICAN CLIENTS.

[Consul Arthur McLean, Puerto Plata, Dominican Republic, Oct. 10.]

It is advisable for American banks, merchants, and manufacturers doing business in the Dominican Republic and other Latin American countries to remember their clients by New Year's greetings in the form of a card or calendar. This is an old established custom of European houses, and it is beginning to be adopted by American firms with business relations in Latin America.

New Year's greetings are very much esteemed by citizens of the southern Republics. While, of course, cards are cheaper than calendars, the latter are the more appreciated. Calendars are useful, and, moreover, are a daily reminder of the firm they advertise.

Both cards and calendars should be in Spanish. Cards should be engraved, not printed. Greetings are exchanged in Latin America at New Year's, not Christmas.

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the **Bureau** and its **district and cooperative offices**. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and **state opportunity number**. The **Bureau** does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases. Symbols: * Reported by American consular officers; † Reported by commercial attachés and commercial agents; ‡ Direct inquiries received by the Bureau.

In considering the following "opportunities" special regard should be had to the laws and regulations governing export licenses and trading with the enemy.

Agricultural machinery-----	25726	Iron and steel products-----	25726
Barrels, wine-----	25727	Machine tools-----	25726, 25732
Belting-----	25732	Machinery-----	25726
Confectioners' supplies-----	25725	Measuring instruments-----	25726
Corn starch-----	25730	Motors-----	25726
Cotton, raw-----	25728	Plumbing supplies-----	25726
Cotton piece goods-----	25727	Safety appliances-----	25726
Electrical apparatus and supplies-----	25726	Spectacle cases-----	25729
Fishing tackle-----	25724	Tobacco-----	25731
Greases-----	25731	Tools-----	25732
Heating and sanitary apparatus-----	25726	Yarn-----	25728

25724.*—A man in Italy desires to purchase or secure an agency for the sale of fishing tackle, such as fly rods, artificial trout flies, reels, gut, etc. Correspondence should be in French or Italian. Catalogues and samples should be submitted, wherever possible. Cash will be paid, and, if necessary, money will be deposited in advance.

25725.*—An agency is desired by a man in England for the sale of candy manufacturers' supplies, such as fruit pulp, condensed milk, and zinc and rubber chocolate molds. References.

25726.*—A company in Italy desires to secure an agency for the sale of gas and oil motors; steam turbines; boilers; steam motors for industrial and agricultural purposes; pumps and accessories; electrical apparatus; telephones; dynamos; electric motors; lamps; accumulators; measuring instruments; safety appliances; agricultural machinery; machine tools for working metals, wood, and marble; heating and sanitary apparatus; refrigerating machinery; plumbing supplies; laundry machinery; machinery for the manufacture of cement, iron, and steel beams; hollow poles; ornamental castings; iron doors; rotating doors and blinds; concrete molds and concrete mixing machinery; winches; hoisting machinery; and elevators. Cash or credit terms will be arranged to cover each transaction. Correspondence may be in English. References.

25727.†—A man from Argentina who will be in the United States for a short time, desires to purchase wine barrels and secure an agency for the sale of cotton piece goods. References.

25728.*—An agency is desired by a man in France for the sale of raw cotton and of cotton yarn. Correspondence should be in French.

25729.*—A company in England is in the market for aluminum spectacle cases in assorted plain and fancy designs, unlined and velvet lined. Quotations should be made f. o. b. New York. Payment will be made by cash against documents either in London or in the United States. Reference.

25730.*—A firm in Portugal desires to purchase corn starch put up in packages. It also wishes to entertain an agency proposition for the sale of these goods. Quotations should be made f. o. b. American port. Credit will be opened in New York for payment. Correspondence may be in English. References.

25731.*—A company in Argentina wishes to buy wholesale quantities of leaf tobacco of all grades. Correspondence may be in English. References.

25732.*—An agency is desired by a man in France for the sale of machine tools of all kinds, including lathes, drilling machines, bolt and nut machines, etc., tools of all descriptions, files, belting, and greases for machinery. Correspondence should be in French. References.

PRINCETON, N. J. COMMERCE REPORTS



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No. 257 Washington, D. C., Friday, November 2 1917

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DECREASED WHEAT ACREAGE IN NEW ZEALAND.

A cablegram received from the American Consul General at Auckland, New Zealand, dated October 31, states that the general crop outlook is unfavorable; that the wheat acreage is 20 per cent short.

RENEWAL OF FRENCH EMBARGO ON DRIED FRUITS.

According to a cablegram from Consul General Thackara, Paris, dated October 30, the embargo on the exportation of dry or dried fruit from France to any destination is again in effect. Permission was given in October, 1916, for the exportation of table fruits, fresh, dried, candied, or preserved, to Allied and American countries. This announcement was contained in a cablegram from the Consul General at Paris which was published in Foreign Tariff Notes No. 23, page 81.

Announcement was made in COMMERCE REPORTS for August 7, 1917, of the withdrawal of the permission to export fruits for distilling and medicinal fruits to the United States and other countries.

SALE OF PACIFIC PHOSPHATES ISLANDS.

[Consul General Alfred A. Winslow, Auckland, New Zealand, Sept. 6.]

According to late published reports here, the phosphate deposits in the Pacific owned by German interests have been taken over by British interests, especially the deposits on Ocean and Ngaru Islands, which are considered among the finest phosphate deposits in this part of the world. In the past they have paid dividends of 25.75 per cent to the companies operating them. The question of the New Zealand Government securing some of these deposits in order to make sure of a sufficient supply of phosphates for this Dominion has been taken up in Parliament.

SIX MONTHS' IMPORTS INTO UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA.

(Vice Consul John W. Dye, Cape Town.)

The following are preliminary figures of the value of imports into the Union of South Africa through the various channels during the months of June, 1916 and 1917, and the first six months of 1916 and 1917:

Ports.	Month of June—		Six months ending June—	
	1916	1917	1916	1917
Cape Town.....	\$3,879,184	\$3,508,854	\$22,218,069	\$18,311,705
Port Elizabeth.....	3,808,985	3,480,385	21,484,286	16,697,818
East London.....	1,317,790	1,086,179	8,280,286	6,800,530
Durban.....	6,943,980	5,565,013	32,185,372	27,265,486
Lourenco Marques.....	905,154	1,266,619	4,923,380	7,038,891
Other ports and stations.....	284,977	256,309	1,328,506	1,566,064
Total.....	17,140,070	15,163,359	90,420,899	77,680,494

Cotton Goods an Important Item of Imports.

Cotton goods represented nearly 15 per cent of the total imports into the Union in the first six months of 1917, as shown by the following table, which shows the values of the different classes of cotton goods imported during the first half of 1917 compared with the same period of 1916:

Articles.	First half, 1916.	First half, 1917.	Articles.	First half, 1916.	First half, 1917.
Blankets, rugs, and sheeting.....	\$636,008	\$1,424,225	Shawls.....	\$96,472	\$169,835
Hosiery (underclothing).....	2,757,808	2,309,563	All other.....	1,711,605	1,568,192
Piece goods.....	5,994,680	5,990,812	Total.....	11,496,573	11,468,627

DUTCH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FOR SWITZERLAND.

(Vice Consul Frank Bohr, Zurich, Switzerland, Oct. 1.)

On September 24 a Dutch Chamber of Commerce for Switzerland was established in Zurich under the chairmanship of the Dutch consul in this city. The newspapers in discussing this establishment lay stress upon the importance of the cooperation in industrial and commercial matters of the small countries in Europe, particularly in view of the experience of the present war. Attention is also called to the importance of Switzerland as a market for the raw products of the Dutch East India colonies.

The office of the Chamber of Commerce is Gessnerallee 15, 1st floor, Zurich.

COAL TRADE OF HULL FOR NINE MONTHS.

(Consul Homer M. Byington, Hull, England, Oct. 8.)

According to the official returns of the Hull Coal Trade, the total quantity of coal received from the collieries for September, 1917, was 235,356 tons, of which 15,733 tons arrived by river and 219,623 tons by rail. The total for the same month in 1916 was 316,467 tons.

The total arrivals at Hull from January to September, 1917, inclusive, were 2,171,738 tons, against 2,529,199 tons in the corresponding nine months of 1916.

CONSTRUCTION WORK.**CANADA.**

[Consul B. M. Rasmussen, Fernie, Oct. 19.]

Road Construction in British Columbia.

Important road-construction work in this section recently included the connecting of the Provinces of Alberta and British Columbia over the route to the south of Crows Nest Lake which was officially opened recently, thereby abandoning the old road over the summit at Crows Nest Pass. By easy grades the new road passes over the summit of the Canadian Rockies on the boundary line between Alberta and British Columbia, presenting to the tourist a scenery that is most beautiful and grand.

Much has been done toward promoting public sentiment for road construction and there are now a number of projects, proposed and under actual construction, throughout the Kootenay district in British Columbia. The Ymir Road to the south from Nelson, connecting the latter with Ymir and Trail, is nearing completion and will in all probability be ready for traffic this fall.

Another project that is ripe for realization is a wagon road from Sandon west to New Denver, and between Silverton and Slocan City to the south, establishing road connections with Nelson, Rossland, and Trail, and the whole Slocan district.

CHILE.

[Consul General Leo J. Keena, Valparaiso, Sept. 26.]

Construction of Port Works at Antofagasta.

A decree of the Chilean Government, which appeared in the *Diario Oficial* of September 22, 1917, called for the submission of bids for the construction of extensive port works at Antofagasta, Chile; also for proposals for the negotiating of a loan which will amount to £1,700,000 if a successful bid is made for the construction of said port works, as the decree provides that the cost of the works must not exceed the sum just mentioned.

[A translated copy of the decree referred to can be examined at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district or cooperative offices by referring to file No. 94324.]

GREECE.

[Consul General George Horton, Saloniki, Oct. 1.]

Building of Small Houses in Saloniki.

The great fire of August 18-19 that destroyed a large part of the city has greatly changed conditions. The Greek Government has decided to build, as soon as possible, small houses for 3,500 families, at an approximate expense of 6,000,000 drachmas (\$1,158,000).

Mr. Anghelakis, the mayor of Saloniki, informs the writer that the above work was to commence at once, and that the buildings were to be constructed of brick and tile locally manufactured. As yet, the Government has made no definite movement toward general rebuilding.

JAPAN.

[Vice Consul E. H. Dooman, Kobe, Sept. 15.]

Progress of Kobe Harbor Works.

September 16 will mark the tenth anniversary of the commencement of work on the Kobe Harbor project and of equipping the city

with adequate land and sea connections. The following is a brief survey of what has been done during the past year and of the progress that has been made up to the present:

Mole No. 1.—Buildings and other land equipment and railroad connections with the trunk line completed. This mole was the first to be put in operation.

Mole No. 2.—Northern half completed. Land construction work nearing completion in the southern half.

Mole No. 3.—In February, 1917, three temporary warehouses covering 6,000 tsubo (about 5 acres) were constructed to shelter cargo held up by the traffic congestion.

Mole No. 4.—On the western half and on the base of the mole buildings, railways, and roads have been completed. The eastern and central portions are now being filled in.

The following are now actually being used:

Two wooden and two steel warehouses on Mole No. 1; two steel warehouses on Mole No. 2, and three on Mole No. 4, with three temporary wooden warehouses on Mole No. 3, a total of 12 buildings with a total area of 13,856 tsubo (11 acres).

Cranes used on wharf: One $1\frac{1}{2}$ -ton crane on Mole No. 2 and two on the west wall of Mole No. 4.

Since October, 1913, 735 vessels, with a total tonnage of 1,684,170 tons, have used the customs docks.

With the exception of construction work on the lighthouses to be built on the east breakwater and some rock filling, stone and concrete construction has been entirely completed. But in July of this year, as supplementary work, it was decided to construct a breakwater on the south with a length of about 3,000 feet, for which material is now being gathered.

Extent of Improvements.

The following shows briefly the extent of the improvement: Total area of reclaimed ground, 70 acres; area dredged, 270 acres; lighters wharves, 1,797 feet in length; sea walls, 588 feet (completed); breakwater of No. 1 Mole, 2,284 feet long (completed); quay walls, 6,495 feet (completed); 2 wooden sheds on the lighter wharf, 7 iron sheds, and 3 temporary sheds; 1 electric power house; thoroughfares, 1 bridge, 60 feet wide and 60 feet long (completed); four 5-ton fixed cranes (completed), one 30-ton fixed crane (completed), and three $1\frac{1}{2}$ -ton traveling electric cranes; rails laid for trains and electric crane; temporary breakwater, 300 feet long; east breakwater, 3,768 feet (completed); and south breakwater, 3,000 feet (to be constructed).

[A general plan showing the progress of work on the breakwater, quays, etc., can be examined at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district or cooperative offices by referring to file No. 93841.]

MEXICO.

[Vice Consul Luther K. Zabriskie, Mexico City, Oct. 16.]

Construction of New Electric Railway Between Puebla and Tlaxcala.

A recent issue of *El Puebla* states that the Puebla Tramway Co. (*La Compañía de Tranvías de la Ciudad de Puebla*) proposes to

construct a railway line between the capital of the State of Puebla and the capital of the State of Tlaxcala, and to this end its representatives are now making the necessary inquiries at the Department of Communications and Public Works in Mexico City.

Due to the traffic requirements between the above-mentioned capitals, which have been greatly augmented of late, it is quite certain that the railway in question will prove of great advantage to the inhabitants of the two States through which the line will pass.

Interested parties should communicate directly with the Puebla Tramway Co. (La Compañia de Tranvias de la (Ciudad de Puebla), Puebla, State of Puebla.

Proposed Railway Through Coahuila.

A recent issue of *El Economista* states that the General Director of the Constitutional Railways will soon submit for the President's approval a project dealing with the construction of a railway that will traverse the most important guayule lands in the State of Coahuila, and thereby it is hoped that the guayule plant in this region may be exploited on a larger scale and with better results than heretofore.

The line that is now proposed for construction will connect at Cuatro Ciénegas with the International Railway and also with the line uniting Monterey and Matamoros.

PRICES FOR CLYDESDALE HORSES AT PERTH.

[Consul H. Abert Johnson, Dundee, Scotland, Sept. 27.]

At the recent annual sale of Clydesdales, held at Perth by Messrs. Macdonald, Fraser & Co., it appears that prices were well sustained. Early in the sale \$924 was paid for a first-prize filly, rising 4 years. The highest price paid for a 3-year-old filly was \$778, which was purchased by a Liverpool firm.

The top price for geldings rising 4 years was \$613, this animal being the first prize from Burnhead, Auchterhouse. The second-prize winner in this class sold for \$564, and \$593 was paid for the fifth-prize winner.

The first-prize winner in the 3-year-old class brought \$540, while \$632 was paid for the second-prize winner of this class. The third prize sold for \$559 and the fifth for \$506.

Quite a number of animals not in the prize list were disposed of at prices exceeding \$486.

LIBERTY BOND PURCHASES BY WOMEN OF DEPARTMENT.

The chairman of the Women's Liberty Loan Committee of the Department of Commerce reports that more than 67 per cent (over two-thirds) of the women employed in the department, including 34 temporary appointees, have become subscribers to the Second Liberty Loan. The figures are 283 subscribers out of a total of 422. This total includes the 34 temporaries mentioned and all the women employed in the department in whatever capacity.

Secretary Redfield appreciates highly the patriotic and unselfish action of the women in the department as shown in the facts stated, and extends his thanks for the support thus given to the country.

EASTERN MANCHURIA'S SPECIAL TYPE OF MOCCASINS.

[Consul John K. Davis, Antung, China, Sept. 21.]

On account of the extreme cold that characterizes the winter months in eastern Manchuria, the Chinese in the Antung district have developed a peculiar variety of cowhide moccasin, which is very generally worn by all farmers, cart drivers, lumbermen, and others whose occupations require their being out of doors during the winter. In the warmer months of the year low shoes, which are made with cloth sides and leather soles, or in many cases with quilted cloth soles, and which fit snugly over the socks, are worn. In the winter such footwear offers no protection against frostbite and freezing, and the problem thus presented has been solved with that simple but ready inventiveness which characterizes the Chinese countryman, by producing a one-piece cowhide moccasin which, having but one seam, furnishes footwear that can be worn with comfort in the snow.

Product is Soft, Warm, and Almost Water-Tight.

In order to keep the feet warm these moccasins are made sufficiently large to permit the feet to be swathed first in long strips of cloth and then to have a variety of soft, dry grass closely packed around them. The result is a shoe which appears clumsy, but which is soft, warm, and almost water-tight.

The cowhides that are used in the manufacture of these moccasins are cured in a peculiar manner. They are first soaked in water for some time, then put into a linewater bath, scraped with a sharp metal disk fastened to a short handle, and finally given a thorough smoking. After the hides are prepared they are cut into pieces the exact size for a moccasin, stretched over a wooden last, and seared with a hot iron until they acquire roughly the shape of a human foot. After a thong or two is attached the moccasin is ready to be worn.

As is usual in many Chinese industries, the moccasins are not manufactured in factories, but are made in the same shops from which they are sold, and a prospective purchaser, by standing in the street and looking into the open-front shop can see just how his footwear is produced. Each shop usually has from 4 to 10 workmen and clerks, both functions frequently being performed by the same persons.

Possible Market for American Goods.

The price for which these moccasins are sold varies slightly, according to the demand and the supply of hides. In general, however, the cost of a pair may be said to be \$4 local currency, which at normal exchange is equivalent to \$1.54 American currency, but at present equals \$3.07 American currency. It is thought possible that American shoe manufacturers may be able to produce moccasins identical in appearance with the local article but possessing superior wearing and water-resisting qualities, and thus extend their trade to this district.

To have any chance for success such moccasins would have to resemble the Chinese product very closely, as the consumers are very conservative in their demands, and the goods must be at least as cheap. As the stores that sell such moccasins also manufacture them the marketing would present some difficulties. These, however, might

be overcome if some one of the large import firms here could be induced to take an active interest in the proposition.

There is no difference between the moccasins for the right and left feet.

FRENCH METALLURGICAL COURSES FOR APPRENTICES.

[Consul Thomas D. Davis, Grenoble.]

Anticipating that the new apprenticeship law would be put in operation, and appreciating the urgent necessity that future laborers should be prepared, the Structural Manufacturers' Syndicate, of Grenoble, decided last December to organize as soon as possible professional courses for the city's metallurgical industries. This has now been done, and the courses will be obligatory for all apprentices between 12 and 18 years, commencing September 10, 1917. They will be held from 6 to 8 o'clock in the morning. Mondays and Thursdays will be devoted to students of 12 to 14 years; Tuesdays and Fridays to those from 14 to 16; and Wednesdays and Saturdays to those from 16 to 18.

Classification and Awards of Prizes.

Apprentices will be supplied with notebooks in which they will keep a permanent record of the courses. The notes will be graded and will furnish the basis of the classification of pupils and the awarding of prizes at the end of the scholastic year. The time passed in class by the apprentice will be paid for at his regular wage, and in addition for time so spent 50 per cent of such wage will be entered to his credit on a savings-bank pass book. This amount he can not draw until he reaches his majority without the authorization of his employer.

Future contracts of apprenticeship will be binding between the employer and the father or guardian of the apprentice. Every apprentice who does not apply himself to the courses or who is discharged from them by the director as a general rule will be discharged also by his employer. Youths in search of a calling who are not employed will be permitted to follow the courses upon payment of 50 centimes (10 cents) per month.

Give Instruction Without Remuneration.

There are 130 professors who have been engaged to give instruction without remuneration. Each will conduct a class of 25 minutes upon a subject which has been furnished him eight days in advance. These subjects together will complete an established program for the year's work.

The courses will comprise: (1) A moral and social course—conduct in the factory and on the street, conduct toward customers, respect for superintendents, care of material, etc.; (2) a technical course in designing upon practical subjects, upon boards furnished by the mill owners; (3) practical general courses in metallurgy; and (4) courses in French grammar, geography, history, arithmetic, etc.

The cost of this institution will be paid by the manufacturers in proportion to the number of workmen employed. Besides contributing to the expense, each week by turns an industrial representative will be designated to preside over the classes, and at the final examinations the employers will constitute the principal examiners.

LONDON TO HAVE \$20,000,000 MILK COMBINE.

[The Statist (London, England), Oct. 13.]

From several quite distinct points of view the amalgamation of London dairies under the leadership of the United Dairies (Ltd.) is highly important on the commercial side, with attractive possibilities for the shareholders and with some advantages for the consumers. While in most cases a combination of businesses is a resultant of influences exercised by a dominant financial body, this particular combination appears to have come about by a reverse operation.

A large number of London retail dairymen and certain dairy companies have, owing to the exigencies of war, found themselves in an uncomfortable position. The supply of their milk became precarious, the price to be paid alarming, the complaints of their customers chronic and insistent, and with quite a possibility of matters getting very much worse. In these circumstances tentative efforts were made to form some kind of combination among the firms so adversely affected, for their mutual advantage. The result of discussions on the subject had the effect of impressing upon them great practical difficulties, and eventually the whole subject was put before the management of the United Dairies Co., with a view to creating a strong financial position capable of taking care of so big a scheme.

At the meeting held on Tuesday, which was an extraordinary general meeting of the United Dairies (Ltd.), the whole proposition was put before the shareholders in the form of two resolutions. The first resolution provided for an increase of the capital of the company to £4,000,000 (roughly \$20,000,000) by the creation of 3,000,000 shares of £1 each, 1,500,000 to be preference shares and 1,500,000 ordinary shares. The second resolution related to the payment of dividends upon the new shares.

Economy of Labor and Material the Object Sought.

The chairman explained that the board had in view an amalgamation of the London retail dairy trade, more particularly those portions of it that had wide deliveries. It covered many of the large limited companies, several smaller ones, and many private concerns. Without following in detail the necessarily lengthy statement of the chairman, some of the more salient points may be touched upon.

Briefly, the objects of the whole scheme are mainly these: To economize by unity of effort the material and labor which is now expended in an extremely wasteful manner every day and all the year around on the distribution and delivery of milk. Even in time of peace it is obvious to the most casual observer that, in consequence of numerous firms delivering their milk in practically every street of any length morning and afternoon, the labor necessary is doubled or trebled by the fact that two, three, or half a dozen men and vehicles are occupied in doing what one, or at most two, persons and one vehicle could do equally well. Among the almost innumerable small dairy businesses throughout London there are many being carried on under great difficulties, and the waste of energy is increased by mismanagement and financial stress; but even among the joint-stock companies with large returns it is quite usual for overlapping to take place as a matter of course, and in the keen competition for new business comparatively great distances are covered in the delivery of milk, which

frequently takes place miles away from the source of supply. Were it not that consumers have always been accustomed to seeing this kind of thing go on, the lack of system and waste of time and energy would appear, as it truly is, a great commercial folly and a way how not to do it.

It must be understood also, while the adoption of the scheme by the United Dairies is quite definite, that a seal can only be put upon the agreement by the formal acquiescence of the numerous concerns that will be in the position of vendors; but the assent of the shareholders of the companies and the formal consent of the private firms may be regarded as almost a foregone conclusion. * * *

In addition, we understand that the new management will keep in view an all-around improvement in the quality of the milk sold.

AMERICAN ELECTRIC TRUCK TESTED IN NEW ZEALAND.

The Board of Trade Journal quotes the New Zealand press to the effect that tests have been carried out at Wellington with a new electric storage-battery truck, intended for use on the water front. The truck is of American manufacture, and is the first of its kind seen in New Zealand. It is about 8 feet long and 3 feet wide, and runs on four small wheels placed underneath the body. The batteries, of which there are 42 of the Edison type, are carried under the platform, and thus do not take up any carrying space. The batteries are capable of running the truck for a full working day.

The driver stands on two divided steps at the end of the vehicle. One of these steps switches the current on when it is desired to start the truck, and the other controls the brake. The steering, which is done on all four wheels, is effected by a tiller, and the electric motor is controlled by a small lever placed at one side of the platform. The capacity of the truck itself is 4,000 pounds.

It is added that the price of the truck is about £500 (about \$2,500), and that it will possibly be purchased by the Wellington Harbor Board.

REQUESTS FOR CATALOGUES PRINTED IN ITALIAN.

[Consul William J. Grace, Leghorn, Italy, Oct. 3.]

Pursuant to a suggestion of this consulate that firms in the United States send catalogues printed in Italian to the various chambers of commerce in the Leghorn district, many American exporters have forwarded their catalogues to these organizations. Moreover, the chambers of commerce are cooperating in every way possible; the president of the Pisa chamber writes that these catalogues will be brought to the attention of importers in his district, as does also the president of the Carrara chamber.

The desire to obtain catalogues printed in Italian is not confined to the Leghorn district. Requests for such trade literature are now being received at this consulate from many parts of Italy. American firms ought to avail themselves of this opportunity to advertise their products, especially as the chambers of commerce and the merchants here are most interested in the matter and are desirous of obtaining catalogues printed in their native tongue.

EFFECT OF THE WAR ON TARIFF POLICIES.

In considering the probable economic effects of the war, the question as to its influence on the future tariff policies of the belligerents as well as of the important neutral countries is given a great deal of prominence. It is regarded as inevitable that a struggle in which economic factors count so much should bring about radical changes in the treaty relations between the two groups of belligerents, as well as between them and the neutral countries. While the conclusions reached as to the tariff policy best adapted to meet the economic changes resulting from the war may in some cases be influenced by preconceived ideas on the tariff and by political traditions, it is safe to assume that the tariff policy of some of the most important countries of the world will be changed as a result of the war, for economic or political reasons. The tendencies toward new economic alignments are reflected in the Paris Economic Conference on the part of the Allies and in the movement for a customs union on the part of the Central Powers. Attention should also be directed to the aspirations of the British Dominions for closer tariff relations with the mother country, involving some radical changes in the tariff policy of Great Britain.

Paris Economic Conference.

The resolutions adopted by the representatives of the allied Governments who met at Paris in June, 1916, in compliance with the mandate of the Paris Conference of March 28, 1916, call for economic measures calculated to meet conditions arising during the war, as well as during the period of reconstruction, and also to establish a permanent policy of economic cooperation among the allied countries. This policy is to be carried out mainly through the following agencies: An agreement among the allied countries to withhold from enemy powers most-favored-nation treatment during the period of reconstruction and to provide compensatory outlets for such trade as may be injured by the refusal of most-favored-nation treatment to enemy powers; special arrangements intended to conserve for the allied countries during the period of reconstruction such natural resources as may be within their control; special treatment of enemy goods with a view to prevent dumping and other forms of unfair competition; steps to be taken by the Allies to render themselves independent of enemy countries in regard to raw materials and manufactured products essential to their industrial development. The resolutions adopted were mostly general in character and, according to a statement by the British Prime Minister in the House of Commons on June 22, 1916, were not to be binding on that legislative body.

One of the concrete results of the Economic Conference of the Allies was the appointment in July, 1916, of the Committee on Commercial and Industrial Policy, headed by Lord Balfour of Burleigh, to consider the recommendations of the Conference, with special reference to the following questions:

- (a) What industries are essential to the future safety of the Empire, and what steps should be taken to maintain or establish them.
- (b) What steps should be taken to recover home and foreign trade lost during the war and to secure new markets.

(c) To what extent and by what means the resources of the Empire should and can be developed.

(d) To what extent and by what means the sources of supply within the Empire can be prevented from falling under foreign control.

It is rather significant that the first report of the committee, made in February, 1917, took the form of the following resolutions:

1. In the light of experience gained during the war, we consider that special steps must be taken to stimulate the production of foodstuffs, raw materials, and manufactured articles within the Empire wherever the expansion of production is possible and economically desirable for the safety and welfare of the Empire as a whole.

2. We therefore recommend that H. M. Government should now declare their adherence to the principle that preference should be accorded to the products and manufactures of the British Overseas Dominions in respect of any customs duties now or hereafter to be imposed on imports into the United Kingdom.

3. Further, it will in our opinion be necessary to take into early consideration, as one of the methods of achieving the above objects, the desirability of establishing a wider range of customs duties which would be remitted or reduced on the products and manufactures of the Empire, and which would form the basis of commercial treaties with Allied and Neutral powers.

Tariff Reform in Great Britain.

The resolution of the Committee on Commercial and Industrial Policy in favor of a "wider range of customs duties" for Great Britain is not the only indorsement of tariff reform in that country. In a report of a subcommittee of the Advisory Committee to the Board of Trade on Commercial Intelligence, appointed for the purpose of considering means for the protection of certain British industries established since the war, the following recommendation is made in regard to tariff protection:

We are of the opinion that where the national supply of certain manufactured articles, which are of vital importance to the national safety, or are essential to other industries, has fallen into the hands of manufacturers and traders outside this country, British manufacturers ready to undertake the manufacture of such articles in this country should be afforded sufficient tariff protection to enable them to maintain such production after the war.

With reference to the strongly expressed opinion of many of the witnesses that the enactment of protective duties on the industries other than those referred to in the preceding paragraph, which have formed the subject of our inquiry, is essential to their maintenance, we wish to report that in view of the following considerations—

(a) That there exists a strong desire to respond to the feeling in our Dominions in favor of an Imperial preference in trade, and that there is also a strong desire to arrange preferential trading with those who are our allies in the present war, and

(b) That the present high direct taxation tends to raise the rate of interest on money, and cheap and abundant capital for the employment of their labor is of the greatest importance to the working classes—

it will be necessary to impose some widely spread import duties, and we are therefore prepared to recommend that a larger proportion of the revenue should be raised by reasonable import duties. We are of opinion that such import duties would go a long way toward satisfying the requests for special protective treatment for the industries which we have had under consideration.

A number of British organizations have expressed themselves emphatically in favor of tariff reform, particularly with a view to the protection of new industries and the extension of preferential relations with the British Dominions. The Association of Chambers of Commerce of the United Kingdom, at their meetings in 1916 and

1917, adopted resolutions in favor of reciprocal trading relations between all parts of the British Empire, the protection of newly established industries, favorable treatment of neutral countries, and restriction, by tariff or otherwise, of the trade relations with enemy countries. The report of the Special Committee on Trade during and after the War, adopted at a special meeting of the Council of the London Chamber of Commerce on May 25, 1916, contains definite suggestions for a triple tariff calculated to provide different tariff treatment for (1) British Empire countries, (2) present allies, (3) friendly neutrals, (4) other neutral countries, and (5) enemy countries. The Imperial War Conference, which met in London early in 1917, adopted a resolution to the effect that the time has arrived for making the Empire independent of other countries in respect to food supplies, raw materials, and essential industries, and expressed itself in favor of specially favorable treatment among the constituent parts of the Empire.

While it is too early to make any predictions as to the outcome of the agitation for tariff reform in Great Britain, it is not improbable that the war will result in an extension of the preferential relations between Great Britain and the British Dominions. In this connection it is worth pointing out that Australia has validated the tariff (in effect provisionally since December, 1914) providing for greatly increased preference in favor of Great Britain, while New Zealand has recently increased the rates of duty on the articles included in the textile schedule for the purpose of granting preference on those articles to the British Dominions.

Tariff Revision in Other Allied Countries.

Some of the other Allied countries are making preparations for tariff revision. Italy has denounced all commercial treaties providing for tariff reductions, and a recent report of the Italian tariff commission recommends the maximum and minimum system instead of the present general and conventional tariff system. In France, too, the parliamentary tariff committees have recommended the abrogation of existing commercial agreements, so as to give France full freedom of action in tariff matters. There seems to be a general assumption among economic and political writers in France that a change in the tariff system of the country will be necessitated by the political and economic changes resulting from the war.

Austro-German Customs Union.

Among the Central Powers the movement for closer economic relations is centered largely in the agitation for a customs union between Germany and Austria-Hungary, although most writers on the subject intimate the possibility of including the Balkan States and Turkey and, ultimately, some of the neutral countries of northern Europe. From a perusal of a portion of the voluminous literature on the subject, it would seem that both the German and the Austrian advocates of the union are fully cognizant of the difficulties to be overcome, but believe that the concessions and sacrifices to be made will be more than compensated for by the increased strength which will enable the Central European nations to meet the economic pressure of the Allied nations after the war. The political opposition, due to the large Slavic element in Austria-Hungary, seems to be regarded as the

most formidable obstacle, but it is believed that it could be removed by diplomatic handling. The economic difficulties arising from the inferior development of Austria-Hungary along industrial lines is to be overcome by a temporary tariff between the two parts of the union, intended to enable the weaker country to withstand German competition during the transition period. It is pointed out that the cartel system could be utilized to limit the competition on the part of the stronger German industries and that the Austrian manufacturers of specialties requiring taste and special training have no reason to fear German competition. Opposition is expected from the large land-owners of Hungary, owing to the fact that improvement in agricultural methods in that country, which is one of the benefits expected from the union, is to be brought about by agrarian reforms and the creation of small holdings. There are also some technical difficulties connected with the division of the revenue collected and the fiscal adjustments necessitated by the loss of revenue on account of tariff concessions.

The benefits to be derived from the union, it is claimed, are both economic and political. The economic advantages will consist in the broadening of the home market, which will make for greater specialization and increase in scale of production; the influx of German capital, which will have a stimulating effect on the economic life of Austria-Hungary; and the stronger position of the two countries in negotiating commercial treaties and resisting economic discrimination on the part of the Allied nations. The political advantages are regarded as so obvious that they are taken for granted, although it is generally emphasized that political autonomy is not to be affected by the union. While the question of including other countries in the alliance is left open, it is generally suggested that provisions be made for the purpose of facilitating the adherence of additional countries in the future.

NEW CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FOR PUERTO PLATA.

[Consul Arthur McLean, Puerto Plata, Dominican Republic, Oct. 2.]

La Camara de Comercio, Industria y Agricultura de Puerto Plata was formed here this month. This is the second chamber of commerce to be organized in this consular district in 1917, as another was inaugurated this year in Santiago de los Caballeros, as announced in COMMERCE REPORTS for September 12.

The new chamber of commerce, Industry and Agriculture of Puerto Plata, would like to get in touch with similar associations in the United States. It will also be pleased to receive catalogues and trade periodicals from manufacturers and publishers in the United States.

OFFICES OF THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE.

DISTRICT OFFICES.

NEW YORK: 784 Customhouse.
BOSTON: 1891 Customhouse.
CHICAGO: 504 Federal Building.
ST. LOUIS: 402 Third National Bank Building.
NEW ORLEANS: 1020 Eibornia Bank Building.
SAN FRANCISCO: 507 Customhouse.
SEATTLE: 548 Henry Building.

COOPERATIVE OFFICES.

CLEVELAND: Chamber of Commerce.
CINCINNATI: Chamber of Commerce.
CINCINNATI: General Freight Agent, Southern Railway, 96 Ingersoll Building.
LOS ANGELES: Chamber of Commerce.
PHILADELPHIA: Chamber of Commerce.
CHATTANOOGA: South American Agent, Southern Railway System.
PORTLAND, OREG.: Chamber of Commerce.
DAYTON: Greater Dayton Association.

NEW FIBER PRODUCTS AT COSTA RICAN EXPOSITION.

[Consul Benjamin F. Chase, San Jose, Sept. 22.]

The National Exposition of Costa Rican products and manufactures noted in **COMMERCE REPORTS** for April 18, 1917, was opened with appropriate ceremonies on September 15 (National Independence Day) in a two-story school building centrally located and conveniently arranged for such a purpose and is being well attended. It is a very creditable show. It reveals products and manufactures which, under proper development, will mean much to the future commercial prosperity of the Republic.

On the artistic side is shown a variety of native work of a class of which any people may well be proud. Exhibits from the various schools are also of a high order. Details would require too much space. Mentioning particular artistic productions would be an injustice to others. Some mention of products of commercial value would seem to be practical.

Display of Cabuya Fiber Arouses Enthusiasm.

Leading in the commercial section is the display of plants, fibers, and manufactures of a hard fiber similar to sisal. The most striking of these is the plant developed through selection and cultivation by Mr. Marcial Peralta of San Jose. It is called technically the *Cabuya olanchó* (formerly known as *Fourcroyea gigantea*), but the particular species is called *Fourcroyea cabuya integra* by Dr. Trelease, ex-director of Missouri Botanical Gardens, in his work. Its fiber is alleged to be stronger than henequen or sisal. Its leaf is from 9 to 12 feet long, and each plant produces much more fiber than the ordinary henequen.

The plant grows best in high land and will withstand a temperature as low as freezing without damage to more than the tips of the leaves. The leaf is spineless. Planting is made from the shoot or cross section of the stalk. Cutting may begin two years after planting, but its full growth is at five years. Cutting is done twice a year. Each plant produces on an average 30 leaves a year or, say, 2 pounds of the fiber. Cabuya may be planted 1,500 plants to a hectare (approximately 600 plants to the acre). Cane, beans, potatoes, corn, etc., may be grown on the same land. It may even be grown on land with a shrub undergrowth. The developer of this particular plant has about 250 acres growing, and others in the country possibly a similar acreage.

Fiber from this plant is shown manufactured into rope, cord, twine, mats, and bags. Articles of finer weave are also possible. A limited quantity of the fiber has been exported to the United States. Much of the present production is being manufactured by Mr. Federico Peralta at San Jose. Mr. Marcial Peralta has a stationary fiber-cleaning machine on his farm and exports in bales of 150 pounds weight. Another cordage factory was recently established by Mr. Enrique Muñoz M. at San Cristobal, Costa Rica.

The exhibition of cabuya and its products by the three men, Mr. Marcial Peralta, San Jose, the founder of the industry in Costa Rica and its most successful producer; Mr. Federico Peralta, San Jose, who has a plantation and cordage factory; and Mr. Enrique Muñoz M., San Maria de Dota, with another plantation and factory, has caused more surprise and discussion than all the other exhibits. The plant

would seem to have a chance to become relatively as important as coffee and bananas.

Other Interesting Exhibits.

Two manufacturers of toys have a good display. This may be a coming industry for local and export trade. Makers: Robert Hermanos and Benjamin E. Piza e hijos.

Ordinary house brooms of excellent quality are exhibited by five makers: Federico Peralka, San Jose; Diego R. Quesada, Escasu; Juanquin Amador, Curridabat; Anibal Calvo F., Alajuela; and Manuel Gutierrez, Curridabat.

Other manufactures exhibited which may prove of value, especially for domestic use, are soaps, confectionery, cloth, tile of various kinds, beverages, office and house furniture, wrought-iron fencing, stringed musical instruments, wood turning, tanned leather, shoes, and rubber goods.

EXPORTATION OF CORN.

The War Trade Board has put into effect the prohibition of export of corn except in special cases where satisfactory evidence of the necessity of exporting has been submitted. This is due to the late arrival of the new corn harvest, and exporters have been warned not to make any shipments or any contracts for shipment unless licenses for export have previously been secured.

In the past exporters have made shipments and then attempted to use the fact that they were paying demurrage as a reason for releasing such shipments. This reason can no longer obtain, and henceforth export licenses will be refused if shipments of corn are made previous to securing licenses.

SIAMESE STUDENTS IN AMERICAN INSTITUTIONS.

[Vice Consul Carl C. Hansen, Bangkok.]

About 15 students from Siam have registered at American educational institutions this year, to qualify in the professions of law, medicine, and civil engineering. Several such students have in the past graduated from American colleges and engineering schools, and are now employed by their own Government in important public works. Incidentally they have been the means of introducing American machinery, scientific apparatus, and other manufactures into this country. Among the students who left for the United States in August were four holders of King's scholarships, and these young men will be educated at the expense of the Siamese Government.

SHIPBUILDING IN THE HAWAIIAN ISLANDS.

[A. P. Taylor, correspondent, Honolulu.]

A shipbuilding plant has been established on the Ala Moana beach, half a mile distant from the Honolulu Iron Works, Honolulu, and three schooners are now being built there. The first of the ships, now approaching completion, will be used in bringing firewood from the islands of Maui and Hawaii to Honolulu, and will be equipped with auxiliary engines in order to save time in crossing the channels.

A channel 300 feet long will be dredged through the coral reef that connects the beach with the open sea for the launching of vessels.

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the Bureau and its district and cooperative offices. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and state opportunity number. The Bureau does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases. Symbols: * Reported by American consular officers; † Reported by commercial attachés and commercial agents; ‡ Direct inquiries received by the Bureau.

In considering the following "opportunities" special regard should be had to the laws and regulations governing export licenses and trading with the enemy.

Automobiles.....	25730	Iron tubes.....	25736
Boots and shoes.....	25733	Machinery.....	25742
Chewing gum.....	25738	Motor cycles.....	25739
Cocoa powders.....	25738	Motor trucks.....	25734
Condensed milk.....	25738	Motors and dynamos.....	25737
Confectioners' materials.....	25738	Office equipment.....	25730
Dress goods.....	25741	Oil.....	25738
Dry goods.....	25741	Peanuts.....	25738
Dyestuffs.....	25740	Petroleum products.....	25743
Farina.....	25738	Steel sheets.....	25735
Foodstuffs.....	25738	Typewriters and supplies.....	25730
Hosiery.....	25741	Underwear.....	25741

25733.†—A man in France desires to seclure an agency for the sale of heavy boots for men, footwear for women, and children, cloth shoes with lowers of leather or rubber, heels and soles of rubber, to lace or button. Also woolen and cotton fabrics, linen and hemp cloth, etc. Samples and catalogues should be submitted wherever possible, with prices and full information.

25734.*—A firm in Cuba wishes to purchase gasoline motor trucks for all commercial purposes. Quotations should be made f. o. b. port of shipment. Cash will be paid, if necessary, but credit terms are more desirable. Correspondence may be in English. References.

25735.*—A company in Australia desires to be placed in communication with American manufacturers and exporters of lead-coated steel sheets in sizes of 3 by 6 feet and varying in gauges from 16 to 26 with intermediate gauges. Quotations should be cabled as soon as possible, with statement, if possible, when such shipments can be delivered.

25736.*—A firm in Italy is in the market for unclosed iron tubes for gas, etc., in various sizes and in large quantities. Correspondence may be in French or Italian, preferably the latter. Reference.

25737.*—An agency is desired by a man in France for the sale of gas and electric motors and dynamos. Correspondence may be in English. Reference.

25738.†—A firm in England desires to represent American manufacturers and exporters of raw materials for confectioners and general produce, such as farina, wax, groundnut oil, shark oil, rice, condensed milk, cocoa powders, peanuts, chewing gums, and other foodstuffs. References.

25739.†—A company in Russia wishes to be placed in communication with American manufacturers and exporters of motorcycles, automobiles, typewriters and typewriter supplies, and general office equipment. References.

25740.*—A firm in Italy is in the market for aniline colors and dyestuffs for cotton and woolen goods. When cabling offers, freight rates to Genoa or other Italian port should be indicated. Cash will be paid. Correspondence may be in English.

25741.*—An agency is desired by a firm in Denmark for the sale of all kinds of dry goods, hosiery, underwear for men, women, and children, and all kinds of cotton and woolen dress goods. Quotations should be made f. o. b. New York and Philadelphia. Payment will be made by cash against bill of lading. Correspondence may be in English. Reference.

25742.*—A man in Portugal desires to purchase machinery for the preparation of aerated lemonades, ginger beer, and similar drinks; bottling and cleansing machines; and machinery for manufacturing straw covers. Correspondence should be in French or Spanish. References.

25743.*—An agency is desired by a man in France for the sale of petroleum products. Correspondence may be in English. References.

PRINCETON, N. J.

COMMERCE REPORTS



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ITALIAN SILK COCOON CROP FOR 1917.

[Consul F. T. F. Dumont, Florence, Oct. 9.]

According to information furnished by the Ministry of Agriculture at Rome, the yield of raw silk cocoons for all Italy for the year 1917 was 33,975 short tons, as compared with 39,485 tons in 1916, and a 7-year average of 44,153 tons.

This consular district produced 3,636 short tons, as compared with 3,857 tons in 1916, and a 7-year average of 5,406 tons.

Except in the Departments of Marche and Calabria, the crop was below that of 1916 and also the 7-year average.

BOND NOT REQUIRED TO IMPORT RUSSIAN EMBARGOED GOODS.

The following announcement relative to the exportation of embargoed goods from Russia to the United States has been received from the State Department:

As the result of an exchange of notes between the Russian Ambassador at Washington and the Secretary of State an agreement has been reached for the termination of the Protocol of Agreement between the United States and Russia concerning the exportation of embargoed goods from Russia to the United States, signed at Washington, September 23, 1915, and for the cancellation of outstanding bonds given by American importers upon proof that the goods imported under such bonds have not been reexported from the United States contrary to the stipulation of the bonds.

By the exchange of notes it is further agreed that the rules and regulations of the Russian Government for the administration of the provisions of the protocol relative to the release of Russian embargoed merchandise for exportation to the United States set forth in a circular issued by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce of the Department of Commerce of the United States on

August 23, 1916, shall continue in effect, except that from the date of the cancellation of the protocol of September 23, 1915, no bonds shall be required of American importers in connection with the release of Russian embargoed merchandise for exportation to the United States.

All applications for the release of goods embargoed by the Russian Government should be made as heretofore to the special agent in charge of the New York branch of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, to whom also communications with reference to the cancellation of outstanding bonds should be addressed.

The circular of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, above mentioned, follows:

If an American importer desires to purchase commodities in Russia for exportation to America, he must, in each instance, furnish the Russian commercial attaché in New York City, with offices at No. 1, State Street, with a guarantee to the effect that the value of the shipment in American dollars has been deposited to the credit of the "Section Etrangère, Ministère Finances" with the National City Bank of New York City, so that the minister of finances may pay to the Russian exporter the equivalent of these dollars in roubles at a rate as fixed by the clearing house, in Petrograd, the day the dollars were deposited in New York City.

On the applications to be filed for release of merchandise from Russia, it will be absolutely necessary for the prospective American importer to state definitely (a) the quantity of merchandise, (b) the value of same in American dollars, and (c) the name and address of the Russian exporter to whom the license to ship should be given.

In addition to the above, the Russian commercial attaché should be furnished with a letter from the National City Bank stating the amount which was deposited by the American importer to the credit of the account of "Section Etrangère, Ministère Finances."

NINE MONTHS' EXPORTS FROM HULL TO UNITED STATES.

[Consul Homer M. Byington, Hull, England, Oct. 5.]

Exports to the United States invoiced through the Hull consulate for the quarter ended September 30, 1917, were valued at \$291,733, as compared with \$358,180 for the corresponding period of 1916. The declared exports for the nine months ended September 30, 1917, amounted to \$1,496,955, as compared with \$1,636,578 for the corresponding period in 1916. The following table gives the value of the principal articles exported during the two periods:

Articles.	Jan.-Sept., 1916.	Jan.-Sept., 1917.	Articles.	Jan.-Sept., 1916.	Jan.-Sept., 1917.
Gum copal.....	\$404,565	\$432,619	Human hair.....	\$78,080	\$141,088
Rubber.....	374,320	513,519	Rapeseed oil.....	25,117	7,357
Castorseed.....	277,396	125,683			

Quotations Desired for Soda Ash.

Consul General George E. Anderson reports from Hongkong that cabled quotations are desired at once for soda ash for soap making in lots of 10 tons per month. Quotations should be transmitted to the American consulate general.

ITALIAN DECREES GOVERNING HIDES AND SKINS.

[Vice Consul Quincy F. Roberts, Genoa, Sept. 21.]

An Italian decree of September 13, 1917, regulates the prices for requisition and purchase of raw hides and imported wares manufactured from them. The military administration is given power to purchase or requisition tanning materials, raw and tanned hides, introduced or to be introduced into the kingdom, and imported wares manufactured from them.

It is provided that the prices for purchase or requisition of the materials existing at the date of the decree shall be established, account being taken of the condition of the goods, either on the basis of the original invoices, accompanied by all the customary documentary proofs, and in the absence of these upon the basis of similar invoices of the same period as the papers of receipt in possession of the owner of the goods, plus the actual expenses, the interest on the capital, and 3 per cent of the profit; or, in the case of manufactured wares made from imported material, account being taken of the manner in which worked or of the condition of the goods, upon the basis of the price of purchase of the raw materials, as above ascertained, plus the actual expenses, including those of manufacture, the interest, and 3 per cent of the profit.

Quantity of Goat and Sheep Skins on Hand.

A decree of the Minister of Industry, Commerce, and Labor, in concert with the Minister of War, published September 10, ordered that the quantity of goat and sheep skins in Italy, raw, undergoing preparation and tanned, should be ascertained.

Whosoever held by any title, even as sequester or depositary, skins of goats or sheep, raw or tanned, was required to make a written declaration of the quantity, the quality, the origin, and the place of deposit.

The declarant who carried on the industry of tanning or refining skins was required to indicate the quantity of skins he would need for two months, basing his estimate on the power of production of his establishment and taking into consideration the quantity of skins undergoing preparation, which must be specified in detail in the declaration.

AMERICAN MONEY AND EXCHANGE IN PORTUGAL.

[Consul General W. L. Lowrie, Lisbon, Sept. 13.]

American paper money was at a small premium above gold in Lisbon before the war. Now it is quoted considerably cheaper than the yellow metal or draft, the difference on exchange basis representing about the cost of freight and insurance on packages of bills. Bank quotations to-day are as follows: Gold, buying, 1.797 escudos; selling, 1.818 escudos per dollar; draft, buying, 1.60; selling, 1.61; paper money, buying, 1.52; selling, 1.54. The gold quotation is based on the gold pound sterling at \$4.8665.

Practically all gold and silver money, including Portuguese, has disappeared from circulation in Lisbon. Formerly American currency was bought and sold by banks and exchange shops in large quantities.

INCREASED EXPORTS FROM VENICE TO UNITED STATES.

[Consul B. Harvey Carroll, Jr., Venice, Italy.]

The value of the exports invoiced at the American consulate at Venice, Italy, for the United States during the first six months of 1917 was \$620,555, as compared with \$355,223 for the corresponding period in 1916. Thus, despite war conditions, the shipments to the United States almost doubled those of 1916 for the same period.

The two largest items of export to the United States were cotton articles of Venetian lace and embroidery, valued at \$395,819, against \$27,656 in 1916, and beads and spangles, not threaded, \$71,744, as against \$18,070 in 1916. Bead curtains increased from \$1,244 in 1916 to \$8,566. As an offset to the increase in shipments of cotton lace and embroidery corresponding articles in linen and other fibers decreased from \$131,204 in 1916 to only \$13,474 in the first six months of 1917.

American purchases of works of antique art increased in value from \$3,577 for the 1916 period to \$10,002 in 1917.

Articles shipped in the first half of 1917, but not in the same period in the preceding year, were: Art engravings; etching and photos; cotton labels; cotton lace curtains; linen embroideries and edgings (value \$27,420); glass or paste manufactures; hats, straw, bleached; medical products; cotton nets (value \$7,664); and silk fabrics.

On the other hand there were no shipments of the following articles, all of which had been exported in the first half of 1916: Ceramics; several varieties of crude drugs, barks, flowers, roots, and leaves; decorated earthenware and crockery; hemp, not hackled (shipments in 1916 valued at \$25,073); handmade linen lace; macaroni; sticks for whip handles; decorated stoneware; swords and sword blades.

MANUFACTURE OF ARTIFICIAL LIMBS IN NEW ZEALAND.

[Consul General Alfred A. Winslow, Auckland.]

According to the Public Health, Hospitals, and Charitable Aid Department, the New Zealand Government has secured quarters and engaged two soldiers with special hospital training and experience for the manufacture of artificial limbs, and an extensive manufacturer of saddlery, trunks, etc., has put in a department for manufacturing artificial limbs.

There seems to be a determination to make a special effort to manufacture artificial limbs in this country if possible, and here may be an opening for supplies along this line from the United States, since the manufacturers here probably only intend to assemble and fit the parts to the particular cases, not being in position to manufacture from raw material.

It might be well for interested parties to communicate with the Director of Medical Services or the Inspector General of Public Health, both at Wellington, and J. Wiseman & Sons, Auckland.

[A report on artificial limbs in New Zealand was published in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for June 19, 1910.]

Coffee to the value of \$835,859 was invoiced from the Vera Cruz consular district for the United States during the three months ended September 30, 1917.

EMPLOYEES OF LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE COMMENDED.

Several employees of the United States Lighthouse Service have been commended for bravery recently by the Secretary or Acting Secretary of Commerce. A special degree of praise is bestowed for the courage and skill shown by the officers and crew of the tender *Magnolia* during the experience of that vessel with a hurricane. The letter of commendation to Frank H. Murphy, commanding the tender, was as follows:

The department has read with pride the report that you proceeded with the tender *Magnolia*, upon the approach of the hurricane of September 28, 1917, to the protected waters of Escambia Bay, where the vessel rode out the hurricane in safety, and takes great pleasure in heartily commending you and the other officers and the crew of the tender *Magnolia* for the excellent seamanship displayed on that occasion. This commendation will be noted on the records as part of the official history of those who participated so meritoriously in this matter. It is requested that the inclosed copy of this letter be brought to the attention of those on board the tender *Magnolia* concerned.

Others in the service whose performance of duties under difficulties called for recognition from the department were:

Thomas Robinson, keeper of Muskegon Light Station, for assistance rendered on October 6, 1917, to members of the crew of the tug *Ida M. Stevens*, which became disabled in a gale about 5½ miles south of Muskegon Harbor, Mich.

Oscar V. Brown, keeper of Browns Point Light Station, Wash., for assistance rendered on September 8, 1917, in rescuing three Japanese from drowning in the vicinity of Browns Point Light Station.

Alfonso S. Bermudez, keeper of Muertos Island Light Station, for assistance rendered in connection with the rescue from drowning of a sailor from the sailboat *Juanita*.

Herbert R. Brownley, commanding the tender *Juniper*, and the other officers and crew of the tender for assistance rendered on October 3, 1917, by the *Juniper*, in floating the schooner *R. L. Davis* from the bank of North Landing River.

Vicente Garcia, assistant keeper of Culebrita Island Light Station, P. R., for assistance rendered on September 23, 1917, to the occupants of the motor boat that carries the mail to St. Thomas, when that craft was disabled.

A. C. Erickson, keeper of Little Traverse Light Station, Mich., for service rendered on September 4, 1917, in rescuing a woman who fell into the water while trying to get out of a boat at a dock at Harbor Springs.

SHIPMENTS FROM NORTH AMERICA TO SOUTH AFRICA.

Restrictions upon the shipment of certain articles from North America to South Africa were adopted in July, 1917, as a means of economizing the space on British ships in the South African trade. A list of the goods subject to these regulations was given in **COMMERCE REPORTS** for September 6 and notice was given in the issue of September 14 that the rules established were not applicable to neutral shipping.

The number of articles "for which (British) shipping facilities are not available" has been considerably reduced, according to a Government Notice of August 14. Consul General Murphy, Cape Town, has furnished the following list of the articles thus exempted from the regulations: Baking powder, bedding, cereals, cheese, crockery, dental requisites, files, fly papers, glassware, haberdashery, hosiery, optical accessories, stationery, varnish, wall boards, wearing apparel, wood molding. There is now no limitation upon the shipment of these articles.

[Additional notices on South African shipping regulations appeared in **COMMERCE REPORTS** for July 18 and 21 and Aug. 15.]

ASPHALTING HONGKONG ROADS.

[Consul General George E. Anderson, Hongkong, British China, Sept. 18.]

After a good many years of experimentation the government of Hongkong has settled down to the general use of asphalt and tar in its road and pavement work. The decision is of considerable significance, for few places in the world offer more of a problem in pavement work, since in few places is there any more serious difficulty growing out of excessive rainfall on steep inclines and great summer heat followed by long seasons of dry weather.

Up to about five years ago almost no asphalt was used on Hongkong roads. Macadam finished with a mixture of clay, cement concrete, and macadam on hills was considered the most economical roadway. Experiments were carried on from time to time with asphalt, and in 1911 some portions of the pavement on down-town streets, as well as a considerable stretch of one of the roads on the Peak, were laid in tarred macadam.

Gradual Introduction of Tar Macadam.

In 1912 the area of tar macadam in the city proper was considerably extended, and the plan was also adopted of painting the surface of many concrete roads with tar and sanding the surface.

In 1913 the substitution of tar macadam for ordinary macadam was pushed vigorously, and the application of tar toppings and the tarring and sanding of concrete pavements were continued. Some small areas were laid experimentally in mastic asphalt, and tar-spraying machines for road surfacing were introduced.

In 1915 the Government opened its own quarries to obtain requisite grades of stone for this tar macadam. Advantage of this was taken to modify the methods in use by laying artificial asphalt in certain roads which are subjected to heavy traffic.

General Road-Making Policy.

The general policy as to the use of asphalt at the present time includes the substitution of tar macadam for ordinary macadam for the larger portion of the roads of the city; the substitution of 2-inch asphalt on cement concrete bed on roads of less traffic; the use of 1-inch asphalt carpeting for macadam on other roads; the resurfacing of worn-out concrete footways with asphalt carpeting; the application of a thin coat of tar topping on roads with steep grades; and the application of tar and sanding to nearly all other roads newly surfaced. Exception is made in the case of several roads where the use of granolithic paving slabs made by the Public Works Department of the colony seems advisable.

The general trend in Hongkong at present is toward the use of asphalt paving in some form as distinct from the concrete and cement mixtures heretofore employed. The asphalt used is almost altogether American asphalt from the Pacific coast. The tar macadam is manufactured by the Public Works Department of the Government at its own quarries. The manufacture of granolithic paving slabs for footways is being carried on by the Government on a rather extensive scale, the slabs being made in standard sizes to suit the prevailing widths of pavements and thus reducing waste to a minimum.

COCONUTS IN THE MALAY PENINSULA.

[Consul Harry Campbell, detailed as vice consul at Singapore, Straits Settlements, Sept. 6.]

The coconut or copra industry of British Malaya has been affected during the past year or two by the war and by the great increase in rubber cultivation. Exports of copra from the Federated Malay States amounted to 33,205,067 pounds in 1916, compared with 31,220,133 pounds in 1915, valued at \$1,216,079 and \$1,043,905, respectively. There was also exported from the non-Federated Malay States to the ports of the colony of the Straits Settlements some 41,600,000 pounds in 1916, valued at \$1,611,865, compared with 39,333,333 pounds in 1915, valued at \$1,351,220. The total exports of copra from the Straits Settlements, consisting almost entirely of reexports of supplies originating in the Federated Malay States, non-Federated Malay States, and Borneo, amounted to 164,047,733 pounds, valued at \$6,849,175, in 1916, compared with 173,877,466 pounds in 1915, valued at \$6,745,138.

Local prices for copra again were low during 1916, due largely to difficulty in obtaining freight for so bulky a product, although, on the whole, prices have been somewhat higher than in the previous year. The price of the nuts varies greatly in different States, ranging from \$3 to \$14 (from \$1.70 to \$8 gold) per thousand, while the present local market price for copra is about \$6.50 (\$3.70 gold) per picul (133½ pounds).

Experimental Work—No Serious Damage from Pests.

Under the direction of the Bureau of Agriculture of the Federated Malay States considerable attention is being paid to experimental work in coconut planting. A critical examination of the rates of growth of young palms has been made and from actual measurements taken it would appear that this country produces young palms of 50 per cent better growth than that recorded in other countries. The question of falling nuts has received attention, and inspection shows that in the first year of production the loss may vary from 50 to 70 per cent.

The advice of inspectors that on small holdings the old coconut trees should not be destroyed has been apparently without effect, for it is very noticeable that coconut trees, even when old and in bearing, have been or are being cut out on many holdings where coconut trees and rubber trees have been planted together. This can only be expected, however, with the present profits to be gained from rubber.

The cutting of trees has necessitated the serving of numerous notices requiring the burning or burial of coconut material in order to prevent rapid increase in the number of coconut beetles. Although doing no serious damage, the various pests common to coconut trees have been found during the year in different parts of the country, including white ants, bud rot, caterpillars, beetles, squirrels, and rats. Rats were particularly numerous in the State of Perak, where 43,000 were caught for a reward of 1 cent each (½ cent gold). An attack of caterpillars was also reported from that State, but strict measures by the authorities prevented any serious damage.

The annual report of the Nordiske Textile Akt., of Christiania, shows a profit of \$300,000 on the capital stock of \$670,000 for the past year, compared with a profit last year of \$75,000.

FOREIGN TARIFFS.**BERMUDA.****Import Duty on Coal.**

According to a recent report from Consul Carl R. Loop, Hamilton, Bermuda, an import duty of 2 shillings (\$0.486) will be levied on all coal imported into Bermuda from September 19 to December 31, 1917. No refund will be allowed on any coal that may be re-exported during or after that period.

BRAZIL.

[Ambassador Edwin V. Morgan, Rio de Janeiro, Sept. 24.]

Export Duty on Manganese.

After some discussion a law has been enacted in the Brazilian State of Minas Geraes, imposing a greatly increased export duty on manganese. While the duty is based on a sliding scale of 4 per cent, 6 per cent, or 8 per cent, according as the official valuation is less than 40 milreis, from 40 to 50 milreis, or more than 50 milreis per ton, the actual effect for the present is to impose the maximum duty. In addition to the ad valorem duty there is a special tax of 1, 2, or 3 francs per ton, dependent upon the official valuation under the same conditions as the ad valorem duty. On the basis of the proposed valuation of 120 milreis per ton, these duties would amount to 11.700 milreis, or approximately \$3 per ton of 2,204.6 pounds, as against the former duty of 4 per cent on an official valuation of 85 milreis per ton, amounting to 3.400 milreis, or about \$0.85 per ton.

Considerable dissatisfaction has been expressed with the new duty, and some of the producers have intimated that they can not afford to continue operations if the duty is collected. The question as to who should bear this additional tax is open to discussion, but as the contract price calls for the delivery of the manganese on board ship at Rio de Janeiro, the exporters have in most cases agreed to assume the responsibility for the payment of the difference. The increased duty is sought to be justified on the grounds of the large profits now being derived from manganese production.

BRITISH INDIA.

[Consul Lucien Memminger, Madras, Aug. 17.]

Violations of Merchandise Marks Act.

In order to secure compliance with the marking regulations contained in the Merchandise Marks Act and to obviate the difficulties consequent upon their violation, a prominent importing firm of Madras has prepared a circular of instructions to be inclosed in letters to its correspondents abroad. This calls attention to the fact that use of words in the English language upon labels or trade descriptions is taken to imply British or Indian origin and for goods from other countries should be qualified with a statement as to the real country of origin.

The importance of correct marking will be realized when it is stated that according to the annual report of the Collector of Sea Customs at Madras there were 255 violations of the act in the year 1916-17, most of which concerned goods from Japan or the United

States bearing descriptions suggestive of British origin unaccompanied by an indication of origin. Penalties amounting to 1,451 rupees (\$471) were imposed in 204 cases. Apparently most of the violations were due to unfamiliarity with the terms of act or to the fact that the goods were bought by commission houses without having been specially intended for shipment to India.

[The regulations and decisions under the Indian Merchandise Marks Act have been summarized in Foreign Tariff Notes No. 8, pp. 186-187, and in No. 21, p. 167.]

CUBA.

[Boletín Oficial de la Secretaría de Hacienda, Aug. 1.]

Stamp-Tax Law.

The Cuban law of July 31, 1917, provides for stamp taxes of various kinds, with the object of securing funds for the payment of the interest and principal of a new bond issue of \$30,000,000, as well as for special war purposes. The new taxes, which became effective September 1, 1917, apply to a wide range of operations, including all ordinary commercial transactions. For the application of the taxes all operations of a mercantile character are required to be evidenced by a written instrument or memorandum signed by the purchaser or seller. In the case of orders, commercial invoices, and other documents regarding contracts or other business operations carried on within the country, the tax varies from 1 cent, where the amount involved is from \$1 to \$10, to \$1 where the amount exceeds \$1,200. Receipts for money paid in private transactions must bear a stamp of 5 cents where the amount paid is from \$25 to \$50, while for receipts of over \$50 up to \$100 a 10-cent stamp is required; for over \$100 up to \$500, 20 cents; and for payments exceeding \$500 a \$1 stamp must be used. The same scale of taxes applies to letters of credit, drafts, promissory notes, vouchers, orders of all kinds for the payment of money, and commercial instruments not included under some other heading. Other documents and transactions for which special rates are fixed include transfers of securities, public documents certified by notaries, insurance policies and guaranties, public registers, bank and savings account books, diplomas from educational and other institutions, public bids, copies of public records, certificates of property, game licenses, licenses to carry firearms, licenses for automobiles and other vehicles, and steamship tickets. On steamship tickets the tax is 5 per cent of the value for first-class tickets and 2 per cent for second-class tickets. Documents not bearing the required stamps have no validity, and fines may be imposed.

Of a slightly different nature is the tax on the production of sugar. The law provides for a general tax of 10 cents per sack, and, in addition, a special tax of 10 cents per sack for war purposes is to be collected as long as the price of sugar in Habana does not fall below 3 cents per pound. Taxes are also imposed upon molasses and upon hides not intended for domestic tanneries or leather-working factories, and upon explosives not belonging to the Government stored in public magazines.

A ruling having been rendered that the stamp tax is applicable to invoices of goods purchased abroad, the Habana Chamber of Commerce appealed to the Secretary of the Treasury to reverse the

ruling on the ground that it was contrary to the terms of the law which taxes only transactions consummated within the Republic. As a result an order was issued on October 9, 1917, that commercial invoices presented for use in customs clearance should not be subject to the stamp tax unless representing sales made by local agents or representatives of foreign firms or by commission houses located within the country.

[Other provisions of this law concerning import duties and production taxes were described in COMMERCE REPORTS for Sept. 19, 1917.]

FRANCE.

Imports of Machine Tools.

The regulations for the importation into France of certain machine tools and tools of other kinds are set forth in a report of September 12 from Consul General Thackara at Paris. These requirements are to be complied with by the French importer before giving orders for goods from abroad, as in the case of practically all other imports in France at present, but they may be of interest to the American exporter as illustrating the necessity of making arrangements for orders in advance. The regulations differ according to whether the goods are for resale or for use in connection with Government contracts. A copy of the report will be loaned upon application to the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

ITALY.

Quarantine Regulations for Fruit Imports.

In amendment of the quarantine regulations of April 25, published in COMMERCE REPORTS for July 2, the importation into Italy of potatoes and of fruits from certain countries is now permitted, subject to sanitary inspection and determination of their freedom from parasites. Permission is granted for the importation of the following articles: Fresh fruits of any kind from Canada, United States, Chile, Hawaii, Japan, China, and Australia; citrus fruits from any country; and potatoes from any country.

Live chestnut plants from the United States are now excluded, instead of plants, bark, and branches covered with bark, as specified in the former prohibition. The decree establishing these regulations, dated July 12, was published in the Gazzetta Ufficiale.

MEXICO.

[Consul General George A. Chamberlain, Mexico City, Sept. 25.]

Amendments to Export Tariff.

Changes in the rates of export duty on hides and skins and on rubber and rubber producing plants, as prescribed in the new Mexican export tariff adopted June 12, 1917, are contained in a Presidential decree of September 22, 1917. A reduction of duty is made in the case of goat and deer skins, while the specific rate on alligator, crocodile, and lizard skins is replaced by an ad valorem rate of 20 per cent and that on cattle hides by a duty of 25 per cent ad valorem. Green guayule and other rubber producing plants are also made subject to an ad valorem export duty at the rate of 6 per cent on the rubber contents, while rubber derived from guayule becomes dutiable at 4

per cent ad valorem. Official valuations are to be fixed by the Treasury Department at intervals of from 1 to 3 months.

Instructions have been issued to the effect that export duties on all dutiable articles sent by parcel post shall be paid by the sender at the time of mailing, unless a representative for that purpose has been named at the exchange office at the port of exportation.

[El Economista, Mexico City, Sept. 29.]

Modification of Import Duties on Clothing.

A new classification with varying rates of duty, in effect October 1, 1917, has been substituted for the single rate of 2.40 pesos per kilo applicable to men's and boys' shirts, undershirts, and drawers of cotton cloth, specified in item 336 of the Mexican tariff. The new duties range from 3 to 9 pesos per kilo depending on the thread count and the nature of the fabric. (At present the Mexican peso is worth about \$0.55.)

Exemption for Wooden Buildings.

By another decree, wooden buildings are made free of duty from October 1, 1917, while iron and steel buildings continue to pay the duties applicable to the component parts. In order to secure the benefit of this exemption, lists and plans must be submitted to show that a complete building is being imported and that there is no deficiency or excess of parts. Included in the list of articles entitled to free admission are the necessary parts of walls, roofs, and floors, the exact number of doors and windows, with or without glass; skylights, balustrades, stairways, ventilators, and all indispensable parts for the construction of the building, including attached metal fixtures such as bolt pins, hinges, escutcheons, bolts, key bolts, door knobs, chimneys, and all other necessary pieces, as well as prepared roofing and roofing tiles. The metal parts must come attached to the wooden parts in the proper place, and no ornamented or decorated materials will be admitted free.

STANDARDIZED BOOTS FOR GREAT BRITAIN.

[Consul Franklin D. Hale, Huddersfield, Sept. 27.]

It is reported that the shortage in and constantly rising price of civilian footwear has caused the Government to formulate a scheme for the production of cheaper boots. It is proposed that four classes shall be manufactured under Government control, two for men and two for boys and youths. Those for men will cost from 13s. to 16s. 6d. (\$3.16 to \$4) per pair, and those for boys and youths 10s. 6d. (\$2.55) and above. These standardized boots will be especially adapted to the needs of agricultural workers, quarrymen, and miners, and for common ordinary town wear by artisans.

The plans will be developed speedily, and soon these boots will be in the hands of retailers. If they lack finish and style, they will excel in durability, for only a stout quality of leather will be used. As the Government controls all leather supplies, there will be no shortage of raw material. Probably "kips" will be used for the uppers, as this material is not stout enough for the regular army boot. Later, standardized boots for women and girls may also be produced.

NIZHNI NOVGOROD FUR MARKET.

[Consul David B. MacGowan, Moscow, Russia, Sept. 10.]

During the first three years of the war fur prices at the Russian fairs and in the other raw-fur markets did not share proportionately in the general enhancement of prices. The demand for furs fell off in the markets of Europe, owing to the tendency to economy and simplicity of life. Exportation to enemy countries was forbidden; the United States, and to a certain extent other neutral markets, became the principal buyers. The fiftieth Nizhni Novgorod fair, just closed, which coincided with the end of the third and the beginning of the fourth year of the war, brought a radical change in the fur market. Every kind of fur was in brisk demand at greatly enhanced prices. The explanation commonly accepted is that the rapid depreciation of the ruble has created a desire to exchange rubles for goods.

Big Demand and High Prices—Astrakhans, Badgers, Calf, and Colt Skins.

The fur market opened with demands from a number of outsiders, persons not previously known in the fur trade. The scarcity of cloth contributed to increase the demand for furs, and when it appeared that dealers had brought few goods to market prices rose rapidly. The shops were neglected, the greater part of the business being transacted privately at the hotels.

Transactions in the different furs took place at the following prices:

Astrakhans.—Raw Russian, up to 1 ruble each; Kalmytsky, up to 1.50 rubles. Dressed and assorted goods were prohibited for export, and as they are not used in domestic trade there were no transactions.

Badgers.—About 7,000 skins offered and all sold for 5 to 6 rubles each.

Calfskins.—Up to 70 rubles per pood of 36.11 pounds.

Colt skins.—Up to 6 rubles each for original lots; better lots up to 8 rubles each.

Ermine, Fitch, Hares, Horsehair, Cats, Lynx, Marmots, Martens, and Mink.

Ermines, raw.—About 35,000 skins offered, Ishimsky selling up to 12 rubles each, Obdorsky up to 13 rubles, Petchersky up to 9 rubles, western (hair out) up to 7 rubles, Yakutsky, in the Moscow market during the time of the fair, up to 7 rubles.

Fitch (white polecats).—About 25,000 offered; sold at 4 to 5 rubles.

Fitch (black).—About 10,000 offered; sold at 12 to 18 rubles each.

Gray hares.—About 500,000 offered; sold for delivery at place of offering; central, up to 1.30 rubles each; Kharkof district, up to 1.20 rubles; Siberian and Menzellinsk district, up to 1.35 rubles.

Horsehair.—Tails, Siberian, 80 to 100 rubles per pood; half-tails, 40 to 45 rubles per pood; manes, 25 to 30 rubles per pood.

House cats.—Black, 2.50 to 4 rubles each.

Lynx.—Only about 100 skins offered; sold at 40 to 70 rubles each.

Marmots.—None offered.

Martens, Baum.—About 1,000 skins offered; sold at 50 to 60 rubles each.

Mink.—About 5,000 skins offered; sold at 12 to 80 rubles each.

Mouffon, Otter, Persian Lamb, Broadtails, and Red Fox.

Mouffons.—About 5,000 white, at 15 to 20 rubles per pair; about 3,000 dark and spotted, up to 15 rubles per pair.

Mouffon linings.—Thirty-seven to 55 rubles each.

Otters, Russian.—About 200 skins offered; sold at 75 to 100 rubles each.

Persian lambskins.—Few offered; original lots sold up to 430 rubles per 10 skins; best jacket goods sold contemporaneously at Moscow up to 500 rubles per 10 skins.

Persian broadtails.—None offered; some transactions at Moscow before the fair at 180 to 200 rubles per 10 skins; small lots sold at Moscow during the fair at 235 rubles per 10 skins.

Red fox.—About 7,000 skins offered; Mongolian, up to 30 rubles per skin; Petchersky, from 50 to 60 rubles each; Vologda and Archangel, up to 50 rubles each; Western, Homel, and Vitebsk districts, about 40 rubles each; Siberian (Tobolsky), up to 70 rubles each; Okhotsky, at Moscow, 70 rubles each.

Reindeer, Musquash, Sables, and Sheepskins.

Reindeer (pups).—Sixteen to 18 rubles each.

Russian squash.—About 3,000 skins offered; up to 10 rubles each.

Sables.—Only about 200 light-colored skins offered; sold up to 125 rubles each; Tomsky and about 200 Amursky sold up to 300 rubles each. High-grade sables were not offered.

Sheepskins.—Offered in very limited quantities; ordinary Russian goods brought up to 6 rubles each and better grades up to 12 rubles each.

Sheepskin linings.—Dressed and black dyed Mourashkinsky sold at from 60 to 70 rubles each.

Squirrel Skins, Backs, Linings, and Tails.

Squirrel skins, raw.—About 200,000 Petchersky sold at 78 to 85 rubles per 100. A small parcel of Central Asia skins sold at 65 rubles per 100; about 30,000 Obsky brought 110 rubles per 100; Yakutsky, Kamtchatsky, Argunsky, about 200,000 altogether offered; Kamtchatsky sold at 1.70 rubles each; about 150,000 Lensky offered at 1.50 rubles each, but no transactions reported.

Squirrel skins, dressed.—About 300,000 Zavodsky sold at 90 to 95 kopecks each; about 200,000 Obsky, at 1.10 to 1.20 rubles each; about 150,000 Lensky quoted at 1.40 rubles but no transactions reported.

Squirrel backs.—About 150,000 Kargopol sold for 52 kopecks each; Russian, up to 60 kopecks each; about 500,000 Zavodsky, from 65 to 80 kopecks each; about 100,000 Obsky, up to 1 ruble each.

Squirrel back linings.—About 1,000 pairs of Kargopol, 6 and 7 rows, sold at 100 rubles per pair; about 1,000 pairs of Russian, 6 rows, up to 150 rubles each; about 5,000 pairs, 7 rows, from 170 to 215 rubles each; about 15,000 pairs, 8 rows, from 320 to 500 rubles; about 1,000 pairs, 12 rows, 605 to 650 rubles.

Squirrel belly linings.—About 3,000 Selennye, 12 to 13 rubles; about 3,000 Zavodsky, up to 25 rubles; about 1,500 Obsky, up to 35 rubles; about 2,000 Nertchinsky, from 30 to 35 rubles; Bederchaty, up to 140 rubles.

Squirrel tails.—None offered at the fair; a small parcel of dark Aldansky tails, with bones, was sold in Moscow at 1,200 rubles per pood.

Reindeer, White Fox, White Hares, Wolves, and Wolverines—American Furs, and Can Furs.

Summer reindeer, raw.—About 5,000 skins sold, at 14 to 15 rubles.

White fox.—About 700 Obdorsky, 70 per cent with tails, up to 125 rubles; about 1,000 Petchersky, up to 150 rubles each. During the fair 1,000 Yeneseysky were sold in Moscow at 150 rubles each.

White hares, raw.—About 1,000,000 were sold, up to 1.25 rubles each.

White hares, dressed.—Feodor Kobelkof's I at 2.35 rubles each, II at 2.25 rubles, and III at 1.50 rubles; I. E. Kobelkof's Sons' I up to 2.70 rubles each, II up to 2.40 rubles, and III up to 1.40 rubles; Feodor Pararannoff's I up to 2.75 rubles each, II up to 2.40 rubles, and III up to 1.50 rubles. About 1,000,000 sold, partly for immediate shipment and partly for January delivery.

Wolves.—Very limited quantity offered; about 60 Turukansky, at 60 to 85 rubles each; about 1,000 various kinds, 20 to 23 rubles each.

Wolverines.—About 100 skins sold up to 70 rubles each.

American furs.—Most of the large Moscow houses neglected the fair. Some transactions were reported in Moscow. Owing to difficulties of importing goods, very high prices were paid.

[General reports on the Nizhni Novgorod fair appeared in COMMERCE REPORTS for Oct. 27 and 31.]

The value of sugar invoiced at the American consulate at Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, for the United States decreased from \$608,534 for the three months ended September 30, 1916, to \$454,038 for the corresponding period this year.

MEXICAN EXPERIMENTS WITH BANANA PRODUCTS.

[Vice Consul Luther K. Zabriskie, Mexico City, Oct. 16.]

Excelsior states that the Bureau of Industries, of the Mexican Department of Commerce and Industries, has conducted a series of experiments with products of the banana. The varieties employed were the so-called "largos," "roatan," and "guineo." The paper states that flour, starch, vinegar, alcohol, fibers, paper, and cardboard are among the products. The processes are described as extremely simple, but in advance of previous methods.

An effort is being made to introduce the processes into commercial practice by urging the establishment of the industries, which require but small capital, and by offering special inducements in certain States where, as in Vera Cruz and Tabasco, the banana plant grows in abundance.

In the technical division of the Department of Commerce and Industries a machine for peeling and cutting the banana has been invented and put into operation. It is made entirely of wood, in order to prevent the decomposition of the fruit, and with the seven knives with which it is provided it can turn out 350 pieces per minute, according to Excelsior. The cost of this machine is about 1,000 pesos.

SHIRTS AND OVERALLS MADE IN JOHANNESBURG.

[Consul John P. Bray, Johannesburg, South Africa.]

A recent article in the Johannesburg Star, dealing with local industries, told of the manufacture of shirts and overalls in Johannesburg—an industry that is the outcome of the war, but whose success is said to be on a permanent basis. The factory occupies a three-story building right in the heart of the city and employs over 100 people. Some 50 Singer machines, electrically driven, are installed in the sewing room. Shirts, overalls, trousers, pajamas, and other articles of apparel of excellent quality and finish are made. A good demand has already arisen for the factory's wares, and the proprietor is quoted as saying that he could employ many more operatives if they could be had.

The pasteboard boxes in which the shirts are packed are the product of another local industry.

OFFICES OF THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE.**DISTRICT OFFICES.**

NEW YORK: 784 Customhouse.
BOSTON: 1801 Customhouse.
CHICAGO: 504 Federal Building.
ST. LOUIS: 402 Third National Bank Building.
NEW ORLEANS: 1020 Hibernia Bank Building.
SAN FRANCISCO: 307 Customhouse.
SEATTLE: 848 Henry Building.

COOPERATIVE OFFICES.

CLEVELAND: Chamber of Commerce.
CINCINNATI: Chamber of Commerce.
CINCINNATI: General Freight Agent, Southern Railway, 96 Ingalls Building.
LOS ANGELES: Chamber of Commerce.
PHILADELPHIA: Chamber of Commerce.
CHATTANOOGA: South American Agent, Southern Railway System.
PORTLAND, OREG.: Chamber of Commerce.
DAYTON: Greater Dayton Association.

PROPOSALS FOR GOVERNMENT SUPPLIES AND CONSTRUCTION.

[Correspondence should be direct with the offices named, and specifications and other information can usually be obtained at the points where the goods are to be delivered or the work is to be performed. In cases where the time limit is too short to permit firms to submit tenders, they should ask to be placed on the mailing lists of such offices to receive notices calling for future supplies or work of a similar nature.]

Garbage incinerator, No. 4879.—Sealed proposals will be received by the Bureau of Yards and Docks, Navy Department, Washington, D. C., until November 12, 1917, for a garbage incinerator, with building, for Wissahickon Barracks, Cape May, N. J. Specifications No. 2644.

New sewer, No. 4880.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Supervising Architect's Office, Treasury Department, Washington, D. C., until November 27, 1917, for a new sewer, septic tank, etc., for the post office at Humboldt, Tenn.

Filling, No. 4881.—Sealed proposals will be received by the Bureau of Yards and Docks, Navy Department, Washington, D. C., until November 19, 1917, for furnishing the necessary labor, plant, and material for filling at the distant-control radio station, Key West, Fla. Specifications No. 2659.

Lighting fixtures in post offices, No. 4882.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Supervising Architect's Office, Treasury Department, Washington, D. C., until November 8, 1917, for furnishing and installing lighting fixtures in the post office at Berlin, N. H.; Burlington, Wis.; Cameron, Tex.; Chariton, Iowa; Fort Morgan, Colo.; Frederick, Md.; Hammond, La.; Hiawatha, Kans.; Madison, S. Dak.; Maquoketa, Iowa; Marion, Ky.; Martins Ferry, Ohio; Martin, Tenn.; Media, Pa.; Mena, Ark.; Pulaski, Va.; Reading, Mass.; Richfield, Utah; Savanna, Ill.; Statesboro, Ga.; Wahoo, Nebr.; Wenatchee, Wash.; the post-office and courthouse extension at East St. Louis, Ill.; and the post-office and courthouse extension at Huntington, W. Va.

Building construction, No. 4883.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Bureau of Yards and Docks, Navy Department, Washington, D. C., until November 26, 1917, for a one-story wood-frame dormitory, an outhouse, and a brick receiving building at the naval station, New Orleans, La. Specifications No. 2649.

Post-office construction, No. 4884.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Supervising Architect's Office, Treasury Department, Washington, D. C., until dates given for the construction of the following-named post-office buildings: December 17, 1917, Denton, Tex.; December 5, 1917, Decatur, Ala.; November 30, 1917, Buffalo, Wyo.; November 27, 1917, Chapel Hill, N. C.

Refrigerating equipment, No. 4885.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Bureau of Yards and Docks, Navy Department, Washington, D. C., until November 19, 1917, for furnishing and installing refrigerating equipment and a brine circulating system at the naval hospital, Washington, D. C. Specifications No. 2640.

Pneumatic-tube system, No. 4886.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Bureau of Yards and Docks, Navy Department, Washington, D. C., until November 19, 1917, for provisioning and installing of an extension to and the rearrangement of the pneumatic-tube transmission system in the navy yard, New York, N. Y. Specifications No. 2653.

Barn construction, No. 4887.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Office of Indian Affairs, Department of the Interior, Washington, D. C., until November 30, 1917, for furnishing materials and labor for the construction of two barns at Rainy Mountain School, Okla.

Fire-protection system, No. 4888.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Bureau of Yards and Docks, Navy Department, Washington, D. C., until December 10, 1917, for the installation of the pumps, motors, piping, distributing connections, etc., for a foam fire-protection system for fuel-oil and gasoline tanks and reservoirs at the naval station, Guantanamo, Cuba. Specifications No. 2636.

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the Bureau and its district and cooperative offices. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and state opportunity number. The Bureau does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases. Symbols: * Reported by American consular officers; † Reported by commercial attachés and commercial agents; ‡ Direct inquiries received by the Bureau.

In considering the following "opportunities" special regard should be had to the laws and regulations governing export licenses and trading with the enemy.

Chemicals.....	25745	Paints.....	25745
Coach builders' supplies.....	25745	Paraffin.....	25748
Condensed milk.....	25751	Piece goods.....	25745
Copper wire.....	25744	Provisions.....	25745
Dyes.....	25745, 25746	Rubber goods.....	25745
Electrical supplies.....	25745	Saccharine.....	25752
Glass and enamel ware.....	25745, 25753	Ship chandlers' stores.....	25745
Hardware.....	25745	Stationery.....	25745
Machinery.....	25745, 25749	Studs.....	25747
Metallurgical material.....	25746	Vaseline and oil.....	25748
Motor cars and accessories.....	25745	Yarn.....	25745

25744.*—A man in France desires to represent American manufacturers and exporters of copper wire for surface and underground use. Correspondence may be in French. Reference.

25745.*—An agency is desired by a man in India for the sale of hardware, electric stores, mill stores, paper and stationery, piece goods, sundries, ship chandlers' stores, machinery, yarn, motor cars and accessories, chemicals, provisions, dyes, paints, colors, varnishes, coach-builders' supplies, rubber goods, glassware, enamel ware, etc. Correspondence may be in English. References.

25746.*—A man in Italy wishes to secure an agency for the sale of aniline dyes and rough material for metallurgical purposes, such as iron, steel, cast iron, etc. Payment will be made on receipt of documents or by means of credit opened at local banks. Correspondence may be in English, but French is preferred. Reference.

25747.*—A retail merchant in India is in the market for rolled-gold studs. Several gross of different patterns and sizes are desired. Correspondence may be in English. References.

25748.—A man in Brazil wishes to secure an exclusive agency for the sale of vaseline, vaseline oil, and paraffin. He will take orders to be shipped direct to customers and will also carry stock. In no case will payment be made before goods have been examined at destination. Liberal terms should be made. Correspondence should be in Portuguese or French. References.

25749.*—A firm in Venezuela wishes to purchase machines for making buttons of pearl shell. Quotations should be made f. o. b. New York or New Orleans. Payment will be made by cash against documents. Correspondence may be in English. References.

25750.*—A firm in France desires to place a trial order for about 10 ribbon looms and winding and warping machinery. Payment will be made by cash against documents. Correspondence should be in French. Reference.

25751.*—A man in Ireland desires to buy or secure an agency for the sale of condensed milk. Quotations should be made f. o. b. Atlantic port. Quotations are desired in British currency. Customary credit terms are desired. Reference.

25752.*—A society in England desires to purchase saccharine. Quotations should be made f. o. b. United States port. Payment will be made by cash against shipping documents. References.

25753.*—An agency is desired by a commission merchant in Spain for the sale of cut glass. Correspondence should be in Spanish. References.

COMMERCE REPORTS



DAILY CONSULAR AND TRADE REPORTS
ISSUED DAILY BY THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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No. 259 Washington, D. C., Monday, November 5

1917

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BRITISH TRADING RESTRICTIONS IN HORSEHIDES.

[Cablegram from American Consul General, London.]

No raw horsehides may be bought or delivered after November 5 without permit from Director of Raw Materials of Army Council or at prices other than following, in pence per pound: For fresh hides of weights firsts, 4½ d.; seconds, 4d.; thirds, or rejects, including only hides fit for tanning, 3d.

GREEK EXPORT DUTY ON TOBACCO.

[Cablegram from American Consul General, Saloniki, Oct. 29.]

Greek Government has imposed immediate export tax upon new and old tobacco of 1 drachma per kilo on all Argos district and similar quality tobacco. Two drachmas per kilo on all other tobacco. On new tobacco which can be officially proved to have been sold before October 29 and which will be shipped before December 13 half tax only will be collected. The measure especially affects American concerns. Detailed report by mail. (Drachma, par value, \$0.193; kilo, 2.2046 pounds.)

ABOLITION OF MEXICAN PARCEL-POST SURTAX.

[Vice Consul Luther K. Zabriskie, Mexico City, Oct. 17.]

A notice appearing in *El Economista* for October 16, 1917, states that beginning November 1, 1917, the date on which the new parcel-post agreement between the United States and Mexico goes into effect, the collection of the special surtaxes on parcel-post packages will be discontinued. Thereafter the same rates of import duty will apply to such packages as to other shipments. As stated in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for April 19, 1917, a surtax of 100 per cent of the customs duties was imposed on all goods imported by mail or parcel post, but

this was later modified to permit persons to receive one package a month without the payment of additional duty, and hereafter only the regular duties will be collected on all packages. The parcel-post agreement to which reference is made provides for an increase in the limit of weight for packages to 20 pounds and for the substitution of a uniform delivery fee of 5 cents per package in place of the graduated charge. It is also provided that in case of loss of or damage to a registered parcel the sender shall be entitled to indemnity equal to the loss sustained not exceeding 50 francs, or \$9.65.

CONDEMNNS UNFAIR PRACTICES IN FOREIGN TRADE.

The Pennsylvania division of the National Association of Hosiery and Underwear Manufacturers, at a meeting on October 13, adopted a resolution that places its unqualified condemnation on the practice of a few manufacturers who have been guilty of unfair and fraudulent practices on the merchants of South America. The text of the resolution states:

Resolved, That the Pennsylvania division of the National Association of Hosiery and Underwear Manufacturers unqualifiedly condemn as most reprehensible, and calculated to discredit American manufacturers in the market of the world, the practice of a few manufacturers, as revealed by irrefutable evidence, of foisting unworthy merchandise on the merchants of South America. And we would urge the taking of such steps as may be deemed expedient for safeguarding the interests of the great body of American manufacturers who, we know, are in accord with the sentiments herein expressed.

The Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce fully approves this action of the hosiery and underwear manufacturers and commends it to the attention of other organizations. Because of the delinquency of the few, the entire business public of this country may come under suspicion, and it is the duty of the trade associations to see that their membership live up to the high standards of business practice that they have adopted. If foreign buyers are convinced that in dealing with members of representative trade associations in the United States they can be assured of the full support of those associations in the settlement of any disputes that may arise, with individual members, a confidence in American business methods will be established that will be a large factor in the extension of our foreign trade.

RUSSIAN DIRECTORIES.

The Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce has just received from the American commercial attaché at Petrograd a number of Russian directories and gazetteers, containing the names and addresses of commercial and industrial establishments, all country estates of 100 dessiatines (270 acres) or more, educational institutions, hospitals, credit institutions, postal-telegraph offices, periodical publications, physicians, and engineers. There is also a volume giving a description of the economic resources of the various parts of Russia. The publications, which are in the Russian language, were issued in 1913 and are probably the latest available. They will be kept on file in the Washington office of the bureau, where they may be consulted by those interested.

NORMAL COFFEE CROP IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC.

[Consul Arthur McLean, Puerto Plata, Oct. 13.]

The coffee crop in the Puerto Plata consular district is about equal in quality and quantity to those of previous years. The total crop is estimated at 2,000,000 pounds, of which about half is consumed in this country and the balance exported. The greater part of this year's harvest will be shipped to the United States, whence much of it will be reexported to European markets. A fair quantity has been sent direct to Spain, France, and Holland. In normal times most of the Dominican coffee was shipped to France, Germany, the United States, and Italy in the order named.

Coffee is selling this year around 10 cents a pound f. o. b. port of shipment. Dominican coffee is usually packed in jute sacks weighing 75 kilos net, 76 kilos gross (respectively 165.3 and 167.5 pounds).

Production Almost Stationary—Cacao Replacing Coffee.

Although there is plenty of good coffee land available in this region, the acreage planted varies little from year to year, and the production remains almost stationary. While the quality of the coffee grown in this Republic is excellent and the prices obtained leave a good margin of profit to the growers, it has not been cultivated more extensively owing to the scarcity of labor for gathering and preparing the crops for market. In recent years Dominican planters have been turning from coffee to cacao, as it requires less labor and is therefore considered a more profitable and satisfactory crop.

There are no large and scientifically managed coffee plantations in the Dominican Republic. The principal coffee-producing provinces of the Puerto Plata consular district are Santiago, Espaillat, and Pacificador.

ADVERTISEMENTS REGULATED IN PANAMA.

[Consul General Alban G. Snyder, Panama, Oct. 4.]

The city council of Panama has issued a decree that in future no signs or advertisements will be permitted in public places unless the owners sign a contract with the municipality for their display. Commercial signs in front of places of business are excepted from this decree. They pay \$1 a month, or if paid in advance \$10 yearly.

All signs displayed in public places must be stamped, showing compliance with the provisions of this decree, and must be in Spanish, although a foreign language may be placed immediately under the official language of the country.

The display of signs, advertisements, or posters containing mistakes is prohibited. Violations of this decree are punishable with a fine of \$10 for the first offense, and \$20 in case there is a repetition.

Importers of Lumber and Coal in Puerto Plata.

A list of firms in the Puerto Plata consular district, Dominican Republic, that import full cargoes of coal and lumber, has been received. Copies of this list may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district or cooperative offices by referring to file No. 93385.

PROPOSED ABOLITION OF ARGENTINE AND CHILEAN FREE ZONES.

The press of Santiago and Valparaiso is urging the extension of the entire Chilean customs tariff to the Territory of Magallanes (Punta Arenas), which was formerly a free zone, but where, since 1912, import duties have been collected on a limited number of articles. In this movement encouragement is found in the recent message of President Irigoyen to the Argentine Congress, proposing that the tariff of Argentina be extended to the southern territories of that country. In order to promote the settlement and development of these territories, as well as on account of the difficulty of collecting customs duties, that part of Argentina south of the forty-second parallel has always been exempted from the operation of the tariff. These territories, it is claimed, have now reached such a degree of development, however, that this special encouragement is unnecessary. It is calculated that at the present time, when the need of increased revenue is so pressing, 13,000,000 pesos (\$12,545,000) is lost annually through the failure to collect export and import duties in this district.

In the movement for the application of the entire Chilean tariff to the Territory of Magallanes, the lead has been taken by the Sociedad de Fomento Fabril, which was largely instrumental also in the adoption of the new tariff in 1916. The primary object is to increase the tariff protection to domestic industries, as well as to promote the fiscal interests of the Republic. In case it is not found desirable to apply the whole tariff, it is suggested that beds, printed and lithographed matter, soap, cocoa, chocolate, and confectionery, the domestic production of which has considerably advanced during recent years, be made subject to the rates of import duty of the Chilean tariff. It is also proposed that an agreement be entered into with the Government of Argentina for the administration of the customs in the thinly populated districts affected.

[A discussion of the customs régime in the southern Territories of Argentina and in the Territory of Magallanes will be found in Tariff Series No. 34 (Tariff Systems of South American Countries), pages 67 and 166. Copies of this publication may be secured from the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, or from the district offices of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, at 25 cents each.]

LETTER POSTAGE TO FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

The increase in postage for domestic letters from 2 to 3 cents an ounce or fraction of an ounce, which is now in effect, applies under the ruling of the Post Office Department, also to mail for those foreign countries to which letters have been delivered from the United States at the American domestic rates. The 3-cent postage therefore now is required on letters for the Bahamas, Canada, Cuba, Barbados, British Guiana, British Honduras, Dominican Republic, Dutch West Indies, England, Ireland, Scotland, Wales, Leeward Islands, Mexico, Newfoundland, New Zealand, and Panama. No change is made in postal charges to other countries, which will continue as heretofore—5 cents for the first ounce or fraction of an ounce, and 3 cents for each additional ounce.

ONTARIO GOVERNMENT FISH SUPPLY.

[Consul Felix S. S. Johnson, Kingston, Ontario, Canada, Oct. 19.]

Ontario Government fresh-water fish will continue to be supplied during the winter months, although the volume may slightly decrease. Plans have been formulated for winter fishing operations on Lakes Nipissing, Nipigon, and Simcoe, and other waters will be taken over for Government control if necessary. In fishing through the ice, gill nets on a rope extending through two holes are employed. As the net is drawn in the fish are taken off, and the net is returned with the rope through the other hole.

If supplies can not be increased, and a smaller volume of fish during the winter can not be avoided, the Ontario Government has plans underway for operations on a much larger scale in the spring. It may be expected that the Government scheme will but reach its normal state next summer. It is proposed that fishing operations shall be conducted on an increased scale in the inland waters, and that the Government shall take over control of Canadian fishing on international waters.

Evidence of Quality of Fish Shipments.

The Government fish is cut open and gutted, while the head is left on in some cases. All Government fish which weigh more than 8 pounds have their heads off. Evidence of the quality of the fish shipments appears in the recent receipt of a 26-pound trout from the inland lakes. This weight was taken after the fish had been gutted and its head removed.

The Canadian Food Controller states that an energetic campaign to popularize fish is contemplated. The present plan embraces only the Province of Quebec, and extensive advertising will be done with the idea of materially increasing the consumption of fish. Should the campaign prove effective in this Province, it is probable that it will be enlarged to take in the other Provinces of the Dominion.

[Previous articles on Government fishing plans in Ontario were published in **COMMERCE REPORTS** for Sept. 8 and Sept. 13, 1917.]

ICE PLANTS IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC.

[Consul Arthur McLean, Puerto Plata, Oct. 7.]

Until recently there were no ice plants in the Puerto Plata consular district, which comprises the northern half of the Dominican Republic. Now every town of 2,500 inhabitants or over has its ice plant. Santiago de los Caballeros, with 15,000 inhabitants (the largest town in this region), has a 10-ton plant, which sells ice at \$1 per 100 pounds at the factory, and 25 cents additional delivered. The other towns, which range in population from 2,500 to 7,500 have ice plants of 1 to 3 tons capacity. The prices of ice at these plants vary from \$2 to \$4 per 100 pounds, and about 10 per cent additional if delivered.

The principal consumers of ice here are the cafés, clubs, and hotels. However, there is beginning to be a small demand for ice from private families. In view of the high prices of ice and the growing prosperity of this country it would seem that it might be possible to induce some of the largest clubs, cafés, and hotels to install their own plants and refrigerators.

DETINNING WORK BY A SCOTCH COMPANY.

[Vice Consul E. R. Pottle, Dundee, Oct. 11.]

The Scottish Detinning Co. (Ltd.), with authorized capital of £60,000 (\$291,990), is a new departure in an industry of which Germany held a monopoly before the war. The company, it is stated, was formed a year ago as a private enterprise for the purpose of establishing in Scotland a plant for the recovery of tin from tin-plate shearings and other tinned scrap, and of zinc from galvanized scrap. As the result of the initial year has been very favorable, and the directors were able to pay a dividend at the rate of 12 per cent per annum, they contend that the company will be able to hold its own against any German or other competition, and have made an offer of £25,000 (\$121,662) in £1 (\$4.86), 6 per cent cumulative participating preference shares, with the object of increasing the capacity of the works, which are situated in Kirkintilloch. In addition to the fixed cumulative dividend, it is stated, the shareholders will be entitled to receive one-half of the profits available for distribution after the ordinary shares have received a noncumulative dividend of 6 per cent per annum.

Payment is to be made at the rate of 6 shillings 8 pence (\$1.62) per share on application, and the remainder as required at intervals of not less than three months, and in amounts of not more than \$1.62 per share.

Other Interests of the Company.

The directors also state that besides ranking as probably the largest producer of steel scrap in Scotland, the company also manufactures zinc chloride, zinc sulphate, ingot crystal, and powdered tin, solder, etc., for all of which there is a practically unlimited demand at all times.

The whole of the preference-share capital allotted under the present issue will (after expenses of issue have been met) be utilized for new plant and the development of the business. It is anticipated that the whole of the new plant will be in operation by the beginning of December, 1917.

The directors claim that the process of detinning and degalvanizing employed, and the methods of handling the scrap are the most economical yet discovered. These processes will be under the personal supervision of the inventor, who is engaged to act as managing director for five years.

[A description of detinning work in England was given in **COMMERCE REPORTS** for June 18, 1917.]

Increased Deposits in Danish Savings Banks.

The savings banks of Denmark have greatly prospered during the war, according to a statement by the Danish inspector of saving banks. He says that the combined assets of these institutions, which were \$268,904,000 on March 31, 1913, have increased by 15 per cent during the war. He says that up to now there has been but little unemployment and wages have been good, and people are inclined to save more than usual against a rainy day.

JAPANESE FLOUR IN SOUTH ASIA.

[Consul General George E. Anderson, Hongkong, British China, Sept. 17.]

It is a rather peculiar turn of trade that, with American flour all but out of the Hongkong market and South Asia field generally, consumers in this part of the world should find themselves depending upon Japan, a country that, up to the beginning of the war in Europe, was a very heavy importer of wheat and flour. As has been indicated in previous reports from this consulate general, Japan, during the latter part of last year, commenced to come into the flour market of Hongkong and its tributary territory in increasing strength. Japanese flour, made from Manchurian wheat, has controlled the flour market of Hongkong for several months and still continues to constitute the major portion of flour arrivals in this port. According to Japanese newspapers this state of things is to continue indefinitely, except that instead of Manchurian wheat the Japanese millers are to use Japanese-grown grain.

Commercial returns indicate that Japan had shipped into the Hongkong field this year up to September 1 a total of 572,000 bags of flour. Considerable quantities of Japanese flour are passing through Hongkong on their way to Great Britain, while Japanese flour also has invaded the Philippines. In addition to this, Japan has shipped large quantities of flour direct to ports in South China that formerly drew most of their supplies of flour (mainly American) from Hongkong.

Position of American Flour.

Arrivals of American flour have practically ceased. Recently an American mill sent 20,000 bags to Hongkong on consignment. The mill lost about \$20,000 gold on the transaction, and the Chinese dealers who bought the product probably will lose half that amount in addition. The fact is that American flour is entirely out of this market and will remain out of it until prices in the United States come down nearly to the normal level, even assuming that war export restrictions will not interfere with sales of American flour in the Far East.

A little Australian flour comes into the market now and then, but Chinese and Japanese flours are really supplying the market (which has imported probably not more than a third of the average imports of normal years). In spite of high exchange the price of flour to consumers in China is beyond the reach of even the comparatively few Chinese who use flour, and they are using other food. There are at the present time about 200,000 bags on hand in the Hongkong market.

INCREASED MEXICAN TRAMWAY FARES.

[Vice Consul Luther K. Zabriskie, Mexico City, Oct. 18.]

The Secretary of Communications and Public Works has authorized the management of the Mexican tramway company (La Compañía de Tranvías de Mexico) to raise the fares on its city lines from 6 to 10 centavos, beginning November 1. Authorization is likewise given for a 66 per cent increase in the rates on the suburban lines.

BRITISH UTILIZE FABRICS FROM BATTLE FIELDS AND CAMPS.

[Vice Consul Hamilton C. Clalborne, Bradford, England, Oct. 15.]

An article entitled "New uniforms for old," which was published to-day in the Yorkshire Post, presents the salient features of the department set up in the rag and shoddy district at Dewsbury by the War Office, for the purpose of repairing, restoring, and utilizing old uniforms and fabrics recovered from the Army and Navy. The Post states:

By permission of the War Office, we are able to publish for the first time details of a big Army enterprise which has been built up by the department at Dewsbury, and by which discarded uniforms and other articles of clothing collected on the battle fields overseas and in home camps are dealt with in such a way as to save the Nation hundreds of thousands of pounds. The consignments of condemned and surplus part-worn clothing gathered abroad are packed into sacks and sent into convenient ports for shipment to England. At Dewsbury arrangements are made for the receipt of the goods. They come directly into the railway sheds at the three local stations, which have been taken over by the Army ordnance officials. Immediately the railway trucks arrive, the bales of clothing are run on handcarts direct to the sorting platforms, where are employed experienced women sorters. The bags are ripped open, and the contents spread out among the "pickers," whose nimble fingers and trained eyes quickly discover which garments should be set aside for renovation, and which are only fit for disposal to rag merchants, and others who put them through their special machinery, preparatory to their being made up again into Army cloth in the local factories.

The sorting places are veritable hives of industry, especially when the consignments of clothing received are very heavy, as often is the case. As many as 90 truck loads have been received at the Dewsbury stations in a single day. Organization and discipline, however, rise superior to all difficulties. No slapdash, hurry-and-scurry methods are employed. Everything works with the smoothness of a well-oiled machine. The women sorters—of whom about 350 are employed—do their work so thoroughly that nothing is wasted. The garments which are beyond repair are carefully scrutinized and sorted into woolsens, linseys, Angolas, etc. All the articles capable of being restored are sent to a local firm of dyers and cleaners, by whom they are cleaned. Then they are repaired and reissued to the troops, or for the use of German prisoners of war.

Saving That is Accomplished by Process.

With the very highest standard of efficiency and large turnover, the cost per article, including large repairs, is very low—about 1s. 1½d.—as compared with 9s. 6d., which represents the two-thirds value of a new one. If the garment were not salvaged, its value in the rag market would be about 1s. 6d. In this way £60,000 worth of uniforms, etc., have been saved up to the present in Dewsbury. In 10 months the total value of produce received and disposed of at Dewsbury was £658,650, while the two-thirds value of garments recovered for reissue at all depots was £340,502, a total of £999,152, at a total expenditure, including enlisted men's pay, civilians' wages, cleaning and repair expenses, etc., of £67,308, showing a net credit balance of £931,844. At present the average disposal price is about £66 per ton, on an annual turnover of some £1,800,000.

Some of the rags recovered form a very valuable raw material to the woolen-cloth manufacturing industry. The rags are carefully classified and packed into bales, and they are then taken from the packing sheds to storage warehouses to await purchasers. The system on which this branch of the organization is worked is as perfect as human ingenuity can make it. Labor-saving appliances are used where possible, and the bales are so arranged in stacks that it is possible to reach any quality and deal with any quantity without confusion or loss of time. The rags dealt with in this way are reconverted into their original raw state by special machinery in the district and used again in the manufacture of new clothing for the Army. Some are sold in open market at the local rag auctioneers' warehouses, but the great bulk are issued at fixed prices to local woolen manufacturers who are making cloth and blankets for the troops. The price is fixed and settled by the contract department so as to keep down the cost of the cloth and blankets ordered by them for the forces. As an

instance, trousers are issued at £84 per ton and jackets at £74 per ton, but the price exceeded £100 per ton when offered in the open market. In addition all cuttings from woolen materials used in the making up of garments for the troops are returned from Army clothing factories to Dewsbury and are similarly issued at fixed rates below market value to manufacturers of Army cloth. Up to the present these sales to merchants and manufacturers in the heavy woolen district amount to over £1,000,000, and this amount would have been much greater if all had been sold by auction, which, however, has not been advisable as any increase in the price of the rags would have automatically raised the price of the cloth, etc., into which they are converted for the Army.

Comparison with Peace Times.

To the lay mind the fact that up to the present 40,000 tons of rags have been handled at the Dewsbury center may not convey anything extraordinary, but if it is pointed out that in peace times the total British imports of woolen rags amounted to 50,000 tons a year, a better impression of the importance and extent of the business carried on at Dewsbury may be obtained. At present about 1,200 tons of rags are being received and dealt with every week. Some of the bales of rags are worth from £20 to £30 each, according to the weight and quality of the material.

As an illustration of the completeness of the arrangements to save wherever it is possible it may be explained that cotton rags are sent to Woolwich to be used as wipers and cleaning rags, and cardigan jackets are repaired with tape taken from old puttees and darned with wool found in discarded "housewives." Among useful and valuable things recovered are leather patches from riding breeches and £500 worth of gold lace, while thousands of shirts have been cleaned and sent for use by German prisoners of war. All web equipment—belts, pouches, etc.—is sent back to ordnance depots for use, and thousands of towels are washed and issued again. Blue trousers are reserved for the use of German prisoners. Woolen scarfs and belts are cleaned and prepared for sending out to the troops when the cold weather comes along. At the Dewsbury center there have already been received and dealt with about 45,000,000 separate articles, including 4,100,000 jackets, 4,500,000 pairs of trousers, 620,000 great coats, 903,000 pairs of riding breeches, 2,700,000 puttees, 3,500,000 shirts, 856,000 caps, 1,800,000 cardigan jackets, 18,000,000 socks, 2,700,000 pairs of drawers, and about 6,000,000 other articles.

EXPORTS FROM MONTEREY TO UNITED STATES FOR THREE MONTHS.

[Vice Consul Randolph Robertson, Monterey, Mexico, Oct. 4.]

The following table shows the principal articles invoiced at the American consulate at Monterey, Mexico, for the United States during April, May, and June, 1917:

Articles	Quantities.	Value.	Articles.	Quantities.	Value.
Argentiferous lead and copper, containing—			Skins:		
Gold.....ounces.....	13,091	\$260,752	Goat.....pounds.....	349,934	\$370,197
Silver.....do.....	2,290,565	1,700,079	Sheep.....do.....	4,780	2,076
Lead.....pounds.....	24,413,048	1,689,232	Kid.....do.....	28,477	9,188
Copper.....do.....	1,629,814	427,253	Hog.....do.....	15,660	1,220
Arsenic precipitate.....do.....	473,499	14,215	Deer.....do.....	1,969	732
Beans.....do.....	170,375	10,287	Wild animal.....do.....	1,690	822
Bones, dry, clean.....do.....		4,752	Jabali.....do.....	834	158
Galena ore.....tons.....	635	31,120	Calf.....do.....	717	262
Glycerin, crude.....pounds.....	4,343	1,579	Structural steel.....do.....	1,460,657	48,300
Guayule.....do.....	758,082	217,325	Wool.....do.....	13,005	3,095
Hair:			Zinc:		
Cow.....do.....	719	109	Oxidized.....tons.....	7,239	151,143
Horse.....do.....	20,563	5,915	Silicates.....do.....	3,535	81,605
Henequen.....tons.....	92	21,071	Calcines.....do.....	1,436	32,606
Hides:			Ore, n. e. s.....do.....	834	21,313
Dry beef.....pounds.....	1,327,718	534,071	All other articles.....do.....		1,130
Green salt.....do.....	122,179	33,849			
Itile.....tons.....	2,908	256,463	Total.....do.....		6,008,309
Lead:					
Bulk ore.....do.....	151	17,899			
Refined bars.....pounds.....	1,561,128	79,480			

COMMERCIAL CONDITIONS IN HANKOW.

[Consul General Edwin S. Cunningham, Hankow, China.]

The first half of the present year was probably the longest period that political conditions in China remained reasonably normal since the revolution.

The trade of Hankow has had to combat the obstacles of the high exchange, which could not have been overcome had the world's conditions been normal, and the increased freight rates, both of which contributed to make business extremely difficult during the entire period.

Large Increases in Ocean Freight Rates.

There was a scarcity of bottoms, but this would hardly be considered as sufficient cause for the rapid increase of the freight rates between Shanghai and the Pacific coast. At the beginning of the year general cargo could be booked for \$15 gold per ton, at the end of February this was increased to \$18.75, while at the commencement of March it was \$25, which was increased in April to \$30, in May to \$40, and by the close of June the freight rate on general cargo was between \$45 and \$50 to the Pacific coast. There should be added from Hankow the river freight rates on general cargo at 6 taels (at \$0.8988=\$5.39) and on oils 7.50 taels (\$6.74) per ton, weight and measurement. It seems extraordinary that the freight rate from Shanghai to the east coast of the United States by lines operating their steamers via the Suez Canal and the Cape of Good Hope (which lines form themselves into a conference) should have increased their rate since the first of the year but 10 per cent, and later 30 per cent, while the lines to the Pacific coast should have trebled their rate during the same period.

Imports of Cotton Goods Show Large Gains.

The most important group of Hankow's imports is that of cotton textiles. The quantities, without reduction on account of reexports, but representing the gross import trade for the first six months of 1917, are shown for the most important items of the cotton textile group in the following table. The quantities only are given, which is a more exact representation for a silver-standard country than the values would be.

Articles.	Six months ending June 30, 1917.	For the whole of 1916.	Articles.	Six months ending June 30, 1917.	For the whole of 1916.
Cottons:	<i>Pieces.</i>	<i>Pieces.</i>	Shirtings, gray:	<i>Pieces.</i>	<i>Pieces.</i>
Printed.....	78,548	64,309	Native.....	1,984	652,340
Turkey red.....	66,680	82,644	English.....	151,126	
Drills, gray:			Japanese.....	225,204	
Native.....	25,946	234,445	American.....	840	620,655
English.....	60		Shirtings, white:		
Japanese.....	137,360		English.....	340,079	
American.....	3,580	40,413	Native.....	2,090	51,122
Flannel, cotton.	6,645		Japanese.....	28,160	
Italians, black and colored.	74,353	229,952	T-cloth, gray and bleached.	26,825	158,402
Jeans, gray:			Velvets and velveteens.	158,402	203,802
Native.....	10,939	283,565	Venetians, black and colored.	47,000	106,843
English.....	21,674		Yarn, cotton:		
Japanese.....	124,630		Japanese.....	18,073,466	182,133
American.....			Native.....	16,130,666	
Lastings, cotton.	9,216	31,999	English.....		
Sheetings, gray:			Indian.....	268,000	
Native.....	37,902	107,487			
English.....	4,118				
Japanese.....	33,450				
American.....	1,580				

aYards

b Pounds.

Cotton textiles and yarns have been in great demand since the end of February at increased prices, notwithstanding the rising rate of exchange, which should indicate a lowering of prices for imports. Yarns have been in especial demand for interior shipment, and the prices have gradually advanced, while prompt deliveries have been sought. The year will probably show that greater outputs and sales of Chinese-made cottons were made than during any previous year. American textiles have not increased in quantity, though greater difficulty is daily experienced in procuring those grades from Manchester, in which the United States mills are usually considered as excelling or as only second to the English. There exists very little evidence of the American manufacturer endeavoring to avail himself of the opportunity to procure a strong footing in this most important of Chinese imports. With the exception of T-cloth, the import of each grade is in considerable excess of the same period of last year. This could in a measure have been anticipated, as the internal political conditions were more peaceful during this year.

Imports of Metals and Sundry Articles.

The following table, prepared by the British Chamber of Commerce from the customs daily returns, shows the quantities of metal and sundry imports for the first half of 1917 and totals of same for the entire year of 1916:

Articles.	Six months ending June 30, 1917.	For the whole of 1916.	Articles.	Six months ending June 30, 1917.	For the whole of 1916.
Copper, ingots, slabs, and disks:			Dyes, aniline..... value..	\$53,875	\$3,742
American..... tons.....			Indigo..... do.....	217	480
Japanese..... do.....	70	760	Machinery and parts thereof..... value..	\$311,230	\$647,669
English..... do.....			Needles..... M.....	156,090	75,990
Iron and mild steel bars..... tons.....	1,251	2,908	Engine oil, American gallons.....	50,575	158,618
Nails of all kinds..... do.....	1,774	3,625	Kerosene oil:		
Iron and mild steel sheets and plates..... tons.....	676	1,407	American..... do.....	2,865,079	
Iron sheets, galvanized, corrugated, and plain, tons.....	125	770	Sumatra..... do.....	2,687,619	17,576,727
Iron and mild steel, new, other than bars and sheets..... tons.....	2,365	1,887	Borneo..... do.....		
Iron, galvanized, new, every kind other than sheets..... tons.....	371	618	Japanese..... do.....	40,160	
Tinned plates, plain, tons.....	1,342	8,334	Sugar:		
Bars, all kinds:			Refined..... tons.....	12,624	15,736
New..... number.....	1,446,482	7,262,809	Candy..... do.....	1,099	1,358
Old..... do.....	2,500,078		White..... do.....	2,422	5,205
			Brown..... do.....	7,687	17,736
			Tea dust, Ceylon, Indian, Java..... tons.....	5,220	10,982

The metal market as usual was quiet at the opening of the year in anticipation of the approaching Chinese new year on January 27, and during this period very little business was transacted. The quiet season extended into April before the market began to show any activity. Stocks of all metals except nails were low by this time, and probably due to an anticipation of the United States' entry into the war, prices began to advance, though very few transactions were noted. During June there was greater activity, causing a rise in prices and for most imported metals, particularly builders', the Japanese buyers were becoming interested.

Large Increases in Most Articles of Export.

The exports have been in great demand, and the trade in many articles has been good, notwithstanding the high rate of exchange. The exportation of many articles has exceeded that of any previous corresponding period. Substantial increases are noted in the export of cow and buffalo hides, goat skins, black bristles, beans, cotton, egg products, and china grass. Tea, due to many causes, has been exported in less quantity. The following table indicates the quantities exported with the destination of certain leading raw products during the first six months of 1917:

Articles.	Exports during first six months of 1917 to—						
	United States.	England.	France.	Italy.	Japan.	Shanghai.	Other European ports.
	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>
Hides:							
Cow.....	5,647	220	217	233	347	625	.....
Buffalo.....	443	193	164	23	.....	25	.....
Goatskins.....	a 1,478,754	a 10,860	a 144,969	a 150	a 25,835	a 772,090	.....
Bristles.....	130	397	68	5	38	52	.....
Wood oil.....	10,258	698	105	.....	7	4,550	20
Sesamum seed.....	30	300	.....	800	.....	7,024	9,336
Gallnuts.....	682	180	94	.....	.....	204	.....
Beans.....	17	7,996	.....	.....	65	31,168	2,445
China grass.....	465	403	117	.....	1,160	432	.....
Cotton.....	115	802	.....	245	2,604	23,030	.....
Tallow:							
Animal.....	145	35	.....	70	872	255	.....
Vegetable.....	2,493	1,250	125	1,945	1	832	99

a Pieces.

Declared Exports to the United States.

The declared exports to the United States as invoiced at this consulate general during the first six months of 1916 and 1917 follow:

Articles.	Six months ending June 30—			
	1916		1917	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
Antimony:				
Crude.....tons.....	.....	.....	1,445	\$242,915
Regulus.....do.....	100	\$64,633	1,200	393,933
Sulphate.....do.....	.....	.....	300	51,955
Beans, soya.....pounds.....	.....	.....	840,000	43,302
Bristles.....do.....	281,534	205,226	312,260	298,564
Camphor, crude.....do.....	.....	.....	1,408	702
China grass.....do.....	.....	.....	1,449,730	67,223
Cotton, raw.....do.....	.....	.....	75,388	13,655
Egg products:				
Albumen—				
Dry—				
Duck.....do.....	30,200	13,887	.....	.....
Hen.....do.....	258,200	116,625	259,400	269,636
Frozen—				
Hen.....do.....	645,010	36,959	.....	.....
Eggs, whole—				
Dry.....do.....	71,176	13,616	462,263	143,600
Frozen.....do.....	418,800	23,453	83,120	6,998
Egg yolk—				
Dry—				
Duck.....do.....	.....	.....	3,900	1,126
Hen.....do.....	450,153	149,359	1,880,750	657,088
Liquid—				
Duck.....do.....	127,048	10,596	.....	.....
Hen.....do.....	768,738	45,047	.....	.....
Fiber, vegetable.....tons.....	25	5,637	100	26,680
Gallnuts.....pounds.....	1,543,369	19 2,341	1,558,020	308,659
Hair human.....do.....	.....	.....	10,055	3,982

Articles.	Six months ending June 30—			
	1916		1917	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
Hemp.....pounds..	19,398	\$2,183	44,800	\$5,542
Hides:				
Buffalo.....do....	1,064,972	166,715	941,850	201,322
Cow.....do.....	5,975,990	2,430,582	14,072,283	6,063,335
Oils:				
Bean.....gallons..	303,496	162,738	12,701	11,948
Cottonseed.....pounds..	584,827	45,227	875,970	93,641
Rape seed.....do....	499,922	36,950		
Soya bean.....gallons..	694,573	355,217	149,528	103,714
Tea.....pounds....	210,647	17,157		
Wood and nut.....gallons..	3,375,262	1,987,626	2,414,923	1,894,699
Peas, white.....pounds..			743,142	30,322
Pig intestines.....do....			27,732	10,101
Pork:				
Tenderloins.....do....	3,259	1,248	21,252	2,099
Trimmings.....do....			40,100	1,975
Seeds, sesamum.....do....			56,000	3,288
Skins:				
Calf.....do....	29,855	10,264		
Deer.....do....			23,614	22,988
Goat.....do....	804,069	511,279	2,263,578	2,424,890
Sheep.....do....			12,184	6,088
Tallow:				
Animal.....do....			324,746	41,296
Vegetable.....do....	3,307,637	249,217	6,108,427	751,190
Tea.....do....	803,620	162,017	763,650	229,147
Turmeric.....do....			16,933	830
Wool.....do....			148,686	42,339
All other articles.....		5,638		2,063
Total.....		7,051,437		14,482,736

Growing Importance of Exports of Hankow.

The first six months of 1917 showed the largest business in the history of Hankow. Prices were high, exchange was adverse, freights were very high, with inadequate bottoms available, but still the exports surpassed all expectations.

Increased trade is most prominent in the articles of antimony, crude and regulus, soy beans, bristles, china grass, raw cotton, egg products, gallnuts, cowhides, wood oil, white peas, goatskins, vegetable tallow, and wool.

Exchange continues to be an important factor in the commerce of China. The price of silver has been rising since the end of 1915, and the international value of the Chinese currency has arisen correspondingly. There has been great fluctuations this year, as telegraphic transfer on New York was 89½ cents on February 19, but on March 16 it had fallen to 80½ cents for a day, only to resume its ascension, which was but momentarily interrupted. On June 25 telegraphic transfer on New York was 94 cents, whereas in August, 1915, the exchange value of the Hankow tael was 54 cents.

The nominal native bank rates of interest has witnessed a broad margin, from a nominal rate about February 7 of 5 per cent to 15 per cent in June. The prevailing rates probably were about 9 or 10 per cent.

Vice Consul Stephen E. Aguirre at Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua, Mexico, has received from a citizen of that district an offer to furnish supplies of "guayule." The name of the producer may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 93950.

PORTUGAL BUYS AMERICAN TRACTORS.

[Consul General W. L. Lowrie, Lisbon, Oct. 3.]

Orders have been placed by the Portuguese Government for 28 American farm tractors. Of the number 7 are machines of 25 to 50 horsepower and 21 are light tractors of 12 to 25 horsepower. Ten different makes are represented in the purchase, and the Government proposes to lease the machines to farmers at a fixed daily rate. It is probable that additional orders will be placed as soon as the styles and capacity of the tractors best suited to this country are determined by actual experiment under the direction of the Agricultural Department.

The Government is investigating silos of 11, 15, and 107 tons capacity. Catalogues may be sent to the American consulate general at Lisbon and also to the "Direcção Geral da Agricultura, Ministerio do Fomento, Lisbon."

(A report on the necessity of adopting modern farming methods in Portugal was published in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for Jan. 9, 1917.)

THE FRUIT CROP IN HOLLAND.

[Consul Frank W. Mahin, Amsterdam, Oct. 1.]

The yield of fruits is very large and of excellent quality this year, especially of pears and apples, and much above that of 1916. As in 1915, this year the pear and apple trees were so heavily loaded that their limbs had to be propped up with forked poles.

Heavy winds in the latter part of August threatened ruin to the growing fruit. Day after day there were fierce gales, which covered the ground with green pears and apples in all the fruit-growing sections of the country. Fortunately, the trees being so thickly covered, enough fruit was left on them, after the gales ceased, to make a good crop; and the fruit blown off was not wholly worthless.

The yield of grapes, peaches, and apricots has also been very good in both quality and quantity. Much larger quantities of such fruits than usual have been grown in the open air this year on account of the exceptional amount of warm and sunny weather.

SUPPLIES OF Balsa WOOD OFFERED IN PANAMA.

[Consul Julius D. Dreher, Colon, Oct. 3.]

It is stated that millions of feet of balsa wood could easily be supplied in the Province of Bocas del Toro in this consular district for export to the United States, although the question of obtaining favorable shipping rates has not yet been determined. Lumber dealers in the United States who need balsa wood would do well to communicate with a reliable firm in Bocas del Toro Province which is interested in this matter, and which has stated to the American consulate its desire to be put in touch with purchasers in the United States.

[The name and address of the firm mentioned may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 93813.]

THE 1917 GREEK NUT CROP.

[Consul General Alexander W. Weddell, Athens, Oct. 8.]

The Grecian Government has not published any statistics covering the output of nuts during the past two years. The following figures, giving an estimate of the Greek nut crop for the year ending September, 1917, were furnished this office by persons familiar with crop conditions:

District.	Pounds.	District.	Pounds.	District.	Pounds.
FILBERTS.		WALNUTS.		ALMONDS.	
Zagora.....	225,720	Karpenissi.....	141,075	Cyclades.....	564,300
Achyia.....	338,580	Agrinion.....	112,980	Thessaly.....	564,300
Arta.....	112,860	Mani.....	282,150	Peloponnesus.....	282,150
Total.....	677,160	Thessaly.....	141,075	Methana, Spetzai, and Aegina Islands.....	282,150
		Total.....	677,160	Total.....	1,692,900

STAMP TAX ON RESTAURANT FOOD IN ITALY.

[Consul General David F. Wilber, Genoa.]

An Italian decree which was published September 18, 1917, imposes a stamp tax on accounts of restaurants, cafés, and all other similar public places. Beginning on January 1, 1918, every bill amounting to not less than 1 lire for food consumed in such establishments, including clubs or societies which furnish meals in their rooms to members, will be subject to a fixed stamp tax of 5 centesimi. A notice of this tax must be posted conspicuously in all such dining places. In the case of clubs or societies, presidents or directors are held responsible for the notice to persons who obtain meals.

BRAZIL'S IMPORTS OF COAL IN AUGUST.

Consul General A. L. M. Gottschalk reports the arrivals of foreign coal at Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, during August last as having amounted to 33,963 metric tons (metric ton=2,204.6 pounds), contrasted with 62,866 tons and 93,113 tons in the corresponding month of 1916 and 1915, respectively. These totals were made up of 28,373 tons of American coal and 5,590 tons of British in August of this year; all American coal in August, 1916; and 71,270 tons of American and 21,843 tons of British in August, 1915.

OFFICES OF THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE.

DISTRICT OFFICES.

NEW YORK: 734 Customhouse.
BOSTON: 1901 Customhouse.
CHICAGO: 504 Federal Building.
ST. LOUIS: 402 Third National Bank Building.
NEW ORLEANS: 1020 Hibernia Bank Building.
SAN FRANCISCO: 307 Customhouse.
SEATTLE: 848 Henry Building.

COOPERATIVE OFFICES.

CLEVELAND: Chamber of Commerce.
CINCINNATI: Chamber of Commerce.
CINCINNATI: General Freight Agent, Southern
Railway, 96 Ingalls Building.
LOS ANGELES: Chamber of Commerce.
PHILADELPHIA: Chamber of Commerce.
CHATTANOOGA: South American Agent, South-
ern Railway System.
PORTLAND, OREG.: Chamber of Commerce.
DAYTON: Greater Dayton Association.

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the Bureau and its district and cooperative offices. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and state opportunity number. The Bureau does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases. Symbols: * Reported by American consular officers; † Reported by commercial attachés and commercial agents; ‡ Direct inquiries received by the Bureau.

In considering the following "opportunities" special regard should be had to the laws and regulations governing export licenses and trading with the enemy.

Belting, leather.....	25758	Lenses.....	25760
Clocks and watches, time.....	25756	Machinery.....	25762, 25763
Dyestuffs and colors.....	25759	Packing material.....	25755
Dynamos and motors.....	25754	Spectacle and eyeglass frames.....	25760
Electrical apparatus.....	25754	Tannery equipment.....	25761
Goggles.....	25760	Wire, barbed.....	25767

- 25754.*—A man in France desires to purchase and secure an agency for the sale of electrical apparatus for lighting fixture installation and power generating, such as motors and dynamos. Payment will be made by cash against documents. Catalogues and price lists should be submitted. Correspondence may be in English. References.
- 25755.*—An agency is desired by a commission merchant in Spain for the sale of packing material. Correspondence should be in Spanish. References.
- 25756.*—A firm in France wishes to secure an agency for the sale of time clocks and time watches for use in factories, etc. Stock will be carried. Correspondence should be in French. Reference.
- 25757.*—A company in England desires to purchase galvanized barbed wire in 50-ton lots, 12½ B. W. G., 2 or 3 ply; and 4-inch barbed steel wire annealed in 50-ton lots 16g. Quotations should be made f. o. b. New York. Payment will be made by cash against documents in New York. The barbed wire should be put up in coils of 1 hundredweight in gunny, with X wood at each end; and the steel wire in coils of 1 hundredweight in gunny. References.
- 25758.*—An agency is desired by a man in Spain for the sale of leather belting. Correspondence should be in Spanish. References.
- 25759.*—A company in Italy is in the market for aniline colors and dyestuffs for cotton and woolen goods. Freight rates should be indicated when quotations are submitted. Cash will be paid. Correspondence may be in Italian or French.
- 25760.*—A firm in England desires to purchase solid-gold spectacle and eyeglass frames, plano biconvex lenses, plano smoke lenses, and motor goggles. Quotations should be made f. o. b. factory or New York. Payment will be made by cash against documents in the United States or at destination. Reference.
- 25761.*—A firm in Venezuela is in the market for complete equipment for a small tannery. Quotations should be made f. o. b. New York. Payment will be made by cash against documents in New York. Correspondence may be in English. References.
- 25762.*—An engineer in France desires to be placed in communication with American manufacturers and exporters capable of furnishing complete equipment for the manufacture of chemical wood pulp. Quotations should be made f. o. b. Pacific port. Correspondence may be in English, but French is preferred.
- 25763.†—A man from Colombia, who will be in New York for a period of 10 days only, desires to purchase machinery for making banana flour, such machinery to be divided in four parts, as follows: Peeling, slicing, drying, and grinding. The machinery should have a daily capacity of 5,000 tons. References.

FRANCIS & TAYLOR **COMMERCE REPORTS**



DAILY CONSULAR AND TRADE REPORTS
ISSUED DAILY BY THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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GREAT BRITAIN REGULATES PRICES OF BUTTER.

[Cablegram from the American consul general, London.]

Maximum prices of butter fixed by Food Ministry: Australian, 220s.; New Zealand, 224s.; Argentina, 220s.; Canadian, 224s.; American, 220s.; Irish creamery, 224s. to 242s.; and British-made, 230s. All prices per 112 pounds above prices for salted butter; unsalted 5s. per hundredweight extra.

RULES AND REGULATIONS OF THE WAR TRADE BOARD.

A pamphlet containing the rules and regulations of the United States War Trade Board has been published as Report No. 1 of that board. It contains information for shippers, exporters, importers, and commercial and trade organizations. Executive orders, proclamations, and official statements which have been issued in connection with the control of exports and the creation of this board, forms for license applications, and the text of the trading-with-the-enemy act are included in the publication. The following announcements are made in the preface to this edition:

The War Trade Board issues the following statements to bring to the attention of the public the relevant information covering the constitution of the exports-control procedure for the administration of the statute and of the proclamations. It is proper to take this occasion to emphasize that the control of exports is so closely connected with matters of State and international negotiations and the formulation of governmental policies that a detailed announcement of the considerations which guide the action of the board in issuing export licenses would merely increase the intricacy of the problems now confronting them and render more difficult of consideration the objects sought.

The War Trade Board has made certain rules and regulations to carry into effect the provisions of the espionage and trading-with-the-enemy acts intrusted to it by the President. These rules and regulations have the force and effect of law.

The first number of this report of the War Trade Board closes with the reproduction of the new license application forms of the board. This edition, No. 1, is intended to give the history of the control of exports chronologically up to and including the formation of the War Trade Board. The rules and regulations herein contained concern exports only. The next number of this

pamphlet will be entitled "War Trade Manual," and will contain only the rules and regulations in force at the time of publication. It is the intention of the board to publish, as often as may be required, all rulings, chronologically arranged, and to supplement this at frequent intervals with the rulings in force at the time of publication. Other editions, furthermore, will be issued from time to time concerning imports and trading with the enemy.

Copies of "Rules and Regulations of the War Trade Board" may be obtained from the Division of Information, War Trade Board, 1435 K Street NW., Washington, D. C.

COAL REGULATION IN CANADA.

[The Canada Gazette, Oct. 31.]

Detailed regulations governing the importation, distribution, sale, and delivery of coal in Canada have been prepared by the Fuel Controller and were ratified and confirmed under the provisions of the war measures act, 1914, by an order in council of October 26, 1917. The right to import coal into Canada or to engage in the business of selling coal as a broker, wholesaler, or retailer is made subject to license by the Fuel Controller, application for which must be made in the prescribed form within 21 days after the regulations came into force. Hereafter no one may enter the business of importing or selling coal without having first secured the necessary permit.

The regulations also contain provisions regarding the fixing of prices at which coal may be sold at wholesale and retail. Coal operators in Canada, outside of British Columbia and certain parts of Alberta, may be required to enter into agreements with the Fuel Controller, fixing the maximum prices to be charged for their output. The commissions or profits that may be derived in coal transactions by brokers, wholesalers, and retailers are fixed at \$0.30, \$0.35, and \$0.50 per net ton, respectively. In determining the maximum prices to be charged by wholesalers or retailers the basis of the computation is to be the actual delivered cost on the first or sixteenth of the month in course, with the addition of the expenses incurred and the permitted commission or profit.

With certain exceptions, and subject to contracts existing at the date of the regulations, no broker or dealer may sell or deliver to a consumer a quantity of coal which, added to the quantity already in the possession of the purchaser, would constitute more than an estimated supply sufficient for the consumer's needs for two months, and certificate to that effect may be required at the time of purchase. No such limit will be imposed, however, during the period from April 1 to September 1 of each year; and an exception is made for railways, munitions plants, and certain institutions, as well as for coal for other purposes, when the quantity does not exceed 3 tons. In case of emergency the Fuel Controller may requisition stocks of coal in excess of the supply permitted.

[The full text of the regulations is on file in the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce at Washington, and may be examined there, or inquiries will be answered.]

A new industrial town is being built at Glaamfjord, near Bodo, in Northern Norway. Here they are developing a water power of 150,000 horsepower. Engineer Eivind Hanssen, of Christiania, is in charge of the work.

THE MAUND A UNIT OF WEIGHT MUCH USED AT ADEN.

[Consul Addison E. Southard, Aden, Arabia, Sept. 6.]

The average Aden merchant prefers to calculate the weights of many of the commodities which he imports or exports, buys or sells, in terms of maunds. A maund is an Indian unit of weight having different values in various parts of that country, but having a value of 28 pounds in Bombay. It is the Bombay maund that is used extensively in Aden, and four maunds equal 112 pounds, the local hundredweight.

This is an important consideration for those who prepare goods for export to the Aden market, as the local merchant appreciates having the goods he imports made into packages of such weights as may readily be translated into maunds and halves or quarters of maunds. Such commodities as nails, sugar, flour, starch, and coffee are commonly prepared for the local retail trade in 7-pound packages (a quarter of a maund) or in packages weighing a number of pounds which is a multiple of seven. Commodities which, from their nature, require larger packages should be made to weigh a given number of maunds to the package.

Would be a Good Selling Argument for American Wares.

Among the American goods at present being imported here are soap, starch, and nails, all three of which would lend themselves readily to the making of packages of such weights as might easily be translated into terms of maunds or into halves, quarters, and eighths of maunds. For example, some of the local hardware merchants are at present handling American wire nails that come in 7-pound packages, thus giving four packages to the maund. There are 16 packages, or 1 hundredweight, to the case. This enables the merchant quickly to translate the amount of his stock into maunds.

The practice of packing goods in this way would add greatly to the convenience not only of importers but of the retail merchant and his customers as well. It would undoubtedly be appreciated by them all and would be a favorable selling argument for American goods in the local trade.

Other Units of Weight in Use.

There are a few commodities, such as musk, various other perfumes, and drugs that, from their nature, are retailed in small quantities. The unit of weight frequently used for goods of this sort is the tola. A tola is the weight of the Indian rupee, and there are 39 tolas to the pound. However, this unit of weight is not nearly so important as the maund in local merchandising. The former is little used except by the retail shopkeeper in serving his customers with goods of the classes suggested, while the latter is widely used in the import, export, wholesale, and retail trade.

While there are in local use various other native weights, as well as measures, none of them except the maund are generally employed in commercial transactions that concern the foreign manufacturer or exporter.

Two metallurgical experts who were engaged by the town council of Pretoria, in the Transvaal, to investigate the quality of iron deposits on the town lands have reported that they are abundant and of good quality, according to press statements forwarded from Johannesburg by Consul John P. Bray.

COAL GAS GAINING WIDER USE AS MOTOR FUEL.

[Consul General Robert P. Skinner, London, England, Oct. 10.]

In consequence of restrictions on the use of gasoline for motor vehicles, coal gas is now being utilized as fuel to an increasing extent. It is reported that the new scheme was started in Manchester, and the success of the first experiments was such that the idea has been widely adopted. In the commercial part of Lancashire steps are being taken to provide charging stations so distributed that vehicles need never be more than 5 miles from a fresh supply, while the movement is similarly spreading throughout industrial Yorkshire, and in Glasgow it is meeting with appreciation. The project was endorsed at a recent meeting at Nottingham of the Motor Trades Association. It is anticipated that garages throughout the country will soon be in a position to supply recharges of coal gas.

Importance of Suitable Containers.

In view of this development, considerable attention has been given to the construction of suitable containers. The use of steel tanks has been generally abandoned, as the strength required to compress 250 cubic feet of gas—the amount required to equal a gallon of gasoline—could be supplied only by tanks weighing more than 500 pounds. Another disadvantage of the compression was the attendant likelihood, in low temperatures, that the gas would turn to liquid. The ordinary arrangement now consists of a gas bag made of balloon fabric fastened to a light wooden rack on top of the car. A supply pipe usually runs down the edge of the wind shield on the carbureter side of the engine and discharges the gas either directly into the carbureter or into the intake pipe near the carbureter. The danger of a back flare is obviated by a check valve, and a cut-off enables the driver to use gasoline while carrying gas, or vice versa.

In this same pipe, back of the check valve, is a connection for the gas-supply main to be used when the gas bag is filled—an operation requiring about 10 minutes.

Mixture with Acetylene Gas Suggested.

It is admitted that an engine driven with coal gas develops but 90 per cent of the power that is obtained when it is driven with gasoline, and that to get the best results the engine must be driven at a high speed. It has been suggested, however, that an arrangement by which a small supply of acetylene gas could be regulated and mixed with coal gas at the carbureter would strengthen the explosion and supply the necessary "kick."

The following excerpt from the London Post, dated October 10, 1917, shows the interest with which the present experiments and developments are regarded by the British Government:

For the purpose of coordinating the consumption of petroleum products on the part of the services and the civil population there is now attached to the executive a section, with Mr. Shrapnell-Smith at its head, charged with the function of introducing and stimulating economies, including alternative methods of transport, in every possible direction. In this respect the relation between the use of petroleum products in the services and the civil needs of the country will be subject to this officer's attention. The use of coal gas as a substitute for petrol, particularly for motor vehicles, is a subject upon which Mr. Shrapnell-Smith, who has done so much useful work during the past 15

months to further its successful application to the propulsion of motor omnibuses and commercial goods-carrying motors, will concentrate. In order to coordinate and standardize the procedure to be adopted in the extended use of this form of fuel, Mr. Long is about to form a committee on gas traction.

The petrol controller finds it necessary to place greater restrictions on the uses for which petrol may be employed, but care will be taken as far as possible to enable those who are engaged on work of national importance to continue to obtain their bare necessities.

The increases in price of petroleum products are receiving the attention of the board of trade, and the contentions of the importers are being closely examined.

The gas-traction committee that is mentioned will, it is assumed, include representatives of the using and producing interests, as well as representatives of the departments affected.

The petroleum executive, whose address is 8 Northumberland Avenue, W. C. 2, will willingly investigate all properly authenticated and detailed complaints sent as to the wastage or misuse of petroleum or its products.

OPENING FOR CANVAS, SAILCLOTH, AND DUCKING IN NEW ZEALAND.

[Consul General Alfred A. Winslow, Auckland, Aug. 22.]

There should be a splendid opening in New Zealand for the sale of canvas, sailcloth, ducking, etc., and American manufacturers should enter these markets in earnest. The European supply is now almost entirely cut off and the outlook is not promising from that source, which means that this country must rely largely on the United States and Japan. The manufacturers of Japan are alive to the opening, as indicated by the following table giving the imports of these commodities by country of origin for the years 1914, 1915, and 1916:

Countries.	1914	1915	1916
United Kingdom.....	\$357,169	\$241,858	\$336,999
Canada.....	841	3,922	2,267
Belgium.....	6,823		
Japan.....			31,315
United States.....	24,180	66,139	67,078
All other countries.....	7,815	3,157	5,420
Total.....	396,833	315,076	443,079

These lines are principally imported by the warehousemen, either direct or through indent agents, or salesmen carrying samples. The most effective way to come after this business is by means of a personal representative calling on the trade with samples. This plan has been adopted by a few American houses with fine results, and more should follow.

There is no duty on these lines imported into New Zealand save a war tax of 1 per cent which is collected on all imports.

These lines of American goods are well received here when prices compare with the British-made goods; and equal facilities are furnished for getting the supplies forward, and the terms of payment are satisfactory. These are important matters American manufacturers should make it a point to meet.

[A list of the principal warehousemen and indent agents in New Zealand may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district and cooperative offices; refer to file No. 93473.]

WEEKLY HEALTH INDEX.

The Bureau of the Census has begun the issuance of a weekly mortality bulletin giving the total number of deaths reported (stillbirths excluded), the death rate per thousand, the number of deaths under one year of age, and the proportion of infant deaths to total deaths in the largest cities of the United States. Inasmuch as these reports are received from cities that represent one-fifth of the population of the country and include such centers as New York, Chicago, Philadelphia, St. Louis, Boston, Cleveland, Baltimore, Pittsburgh, Los Angeles, Buffalo, San Francisco, Newark, Cincinnati, and smaller cities having populations ranging from 114,000 to 400,000, the figures given therein are a valuable index to the state of the national health. They serve, in fact, as a health index in much the same fashion as commodity prices trace the cost of living.

Their intelligent use—and the Census Bureau cautions that, as weekly figures always fluctuate widely, extreme care must be exercised in their interpretation—will place persons having under their charge matters of social welfare in a position to detect tendencies that might otherwise escape their notice. Such information is of particular value to public officials in time of war, for then, more than at any other time, is it needful that they be advised without delay of any unfavorable changes in the national well-being. Insurance companies, too, should find the indexes of interest. Week by week the bulletin will increase in value to its users as more comparative data become available.

The health index is issued each Tuesday and distributed without charge. Requests therefor should be made to the Director of the Census, Department of Commerce, Washington, D. C.

BRITISH PRODUCTION AND EXPORTATION OF CEMENT.

[Consul Harry A. McBride, London, Oct. 11.]

There are no official statistics giving the production in the United Kingdom of cement for building and engineering purposes since those covering the year 1907. The production in that year, according to the official census, amounted to 2,886,000 tons, valued at \$16,779,692. Investigations made among the larger cement producers indicate that the output during the years 1908 to 1913 was approximately 3,000,000 tons annually.

It is estimated that the production during 1914 fell to between 2,220,000 and 2,260,000 tons, but the decline was much greater in 1915 and 1916, in which years the output is estimated at between 1,500,000 to 1,800,000 tons. This is due primarily to war legislation regulating building operations in the United Kingdom during the war.

Value of Exports of Cement Remains Nearly Normal.

Before the war the exportation of cement from the United Kingdom was increasing rapidly, but since the outbreak of hostilities this trade has remained about stationary. The export figure, so far as values are concerned, appears to have been maintained, notwithstanding the decrease in production.

In 1913 the exports were valued at \$4,963,030, and in 1916 the value was \$4,851,998. The quantities, however, show a decrease during the

same period of over 200,000 tons. In 1912, 644,575 tons were exported, as compared with only 409,983 tons in 1916. During the past five years 1913 was the most favorable in the cement export trade, when 747,736 tons, valued at \$6,195,384, were shipped to foreign countries.

British India has always been the chief destination of British cements, consuming roughly 20 per cent of the total exports. Brazil and Argentina have also taken large quantities, and in 1916 the exports to Brazil even exceeded those to India. Chile, British West Africa, and Australia have also furnished good markets for British cement. The following table shows the exports of cement from the United Kingdom to all destinations, both in quantities and value, since 1912:

Countries of destination.	1912		1913		1914		1916	
	Tons.	Value.	Tons.	Value.	Tons.	Value.	Tons.	Value.
FOREIGN COUNTRIES.								
Argentina.....	72,136	\$546,397	97,670	\$798,159	47,631	\$390,067	79,307	\$920,197
Brazil.....	83,580	633,190	124,342	990,352	42,701	357,201	68,471	850,930
Chile.....	22,690	165,232	27,789	221,211	20,459	149,713	35,025	350,189
Egypt.....	38,392	239,948	17,795	150,667	5,918	45,974	.....	.....
Mexico.....	3,572	25,973	4,471	36,046	8,777	8,132	.....	.....
Netherlands.....	3,638	30,192	4,916	43,307	20,838	169,135	1,304	14,191
Portuguese East Africa..	9,733	75,431	8,075	69,630	5,309	46,256	1,421	18,663
Spain.....	1,037	8,945	13,834	114,178	.....	6,161	416	5,913
Turkey.....	6,786	51,862	3,191	26,766	3,191	27,296	.....	.....
United States.....	1,315	21,943	1,707	29,574	1,581	25,367	707	16,731
Uruguay.....	7,916	58,953	6,624	54,826	2,855	22,280	2,503	22,710
Other foreign countries..	15,747	150,307	25,852	253,470	28,564	269,585	36,980	481,161
BRITISH POSSESSIONS.								
Channel Islands.....	4,874	37,563	4,664	39,360	4,292	36,314	1,873	21,651
Australia.....	42,247	306,444	30,879	234,425	39,274	308,472	10,600	112,913
British East Africa.....	9,251	79,266	11,964	112,095	13,730	120,402	4,179	52,476
British West Africa.....	29,285	238,459	35,268	324,776	43,309	374,613	23,931	325,462
British India.....	112,220	909,802	142,974	1,176,681	142,522	1,164,670	73,806	823,587
British West India Isl'ds..	20,342	150,010	18,641	126,179	9,491	72,740	4,983	57,619
Canada.....	20,833	151,368	8,835	70,165	5,062	44,046	126	2,506
Ceylon.....	23,422	184,066	25,663	229,129	34,760	298,024	24,320	307,310
Gibraltar.....	1,071	8,492	2,170	19,850	5,126	41,443	792	9,941
New Zealand.....	16,288	126,042	6,617	55,731	6,104	52,378	580	13,178
Straits Settlements.....	31,569	228,998	36,165	288,498	34,628	277,089	7,648	69,586
Union of South Africa.....	57,705	426,179	65,699	533,065	39,882	330,523	18,605	209,002
Other British possessions..	13,946	107,462	23,931	196,344	37,943	306,660	12,456	150,023
Total.....	644,575	4,963,030	747,736	6,195,384	595,868	4,944,552	409,983	4,851,998

Imports of Cement.

The quantities of cement imported into the United Kingdom before the war were of some importance. In 1912, 122,331 tons were imported, 97,027 tons of which came from Belgium and most of the remainder from Germany. In 1913, 108,324 tons were imported, with 94,382 tons of Belgian origin. The imports during 1914 amounted to 73,392 tons, and in 1915 to 2,103 tons. In 1916 the imports practically ceased, only 442 tons arriving, 260 tons of which came from the United States.

The Technological Institute of Denmark has opened a special course in combustion, with a view to teaching the practical methods of burning various fuels in various stoves for the best economy. This institution will operate what they call an "Industrial Experiment Station" for examining and teaching the scientific principles and practice in domestic economy.

FEMALE LABOR IN BRITISH TEXTILE INDUSTRIES.

[Consul Franklin D. Hale, Huddersfield, Oct. 1.]

Careful inquiry has convinced me that the extent to which female labor has been substituted for male labor in the textile industry of the Huddersfield district has been overestimated. It has been much less than I had supposed, judging from newspaper reports and casual conversation. In some other districts it may have been greater. Possibly in this district more than in any other engaged principally in textile manufacturing a larger percentage of the mills are equipped with machinery that was easily adapted to the production of khaki for the needs of the army, and the important contracts awarded by the Government to this district for such cloths tended to retain a good percentage of the skilled male labor that might otherwise have been summoned for military service at the front.

In order to obtain the information needed to make a report of value I submitted a set of 10 questions to 20 of the principal textile manufacturers in the district, and most of them very courteously responded to my request. Following are the questions asked and a general expression of the information and opinions given thereto:

Extent of Substitution.

1. About what number of people do you employ in normal times, and what is the usual proportion of male and female?

The firms addressed employ in normal times about 12,000 people. Females slightly exceed males in number, the percentage being about 55 and 45. Some mills have an excess of males the general nature of the work being somewhat different; and there is quite a range of difference in the percentage of the two classes in different mills.

2. To what extent have you substituted female for male labor because of war conditions, and in what departments principally?

The largest substitution reported is from equal numbers before the war to 80 per cent female at present. Other reports show 10 and 8 per cent, while still others give but very slight substitution. The last-named condition is the most general. The greatest substitution has been in the weaving department, although there has been some in the spinning, teasing, finishing, cutting, warping, and clerical departments. Much of the substitution has been from one department to another in the same mill, some departments being practically closed on account of the change in demand. For instance, the demand for khaki and the forced conservation of the raw material has lessened the output of goods for the civilian trade, in the production of which the demands on labor would be somewhat different.

3. To what extent has substituted labor proven satisfactory as to quantity and quality of product?

The general reply to this question is, "Quite satisfactory." Some of the reports are characterized by the following statements: "Not quite so satisfactory." "Less production." "In weaving department do as well as men." "All satisfactory at right jobs." "Staff not quite so reliable, but on the whole fairly good." "Not so good." "Can not depend on women to keep on good time as well as men." "Weaving normal."

Married Workers—Wage Comparison.

4. About what per cent of the substituted female laborers are married and have they been mostly without previous experience in mill work?

On the average 20 per cent are married, and the great majority of them have had, at some time, mill experience. Some report a larger per cent of married women. As stated in reply to No. 2 some are taken from another department, but of those not at the time employed the majority have had mill experience at some previous time.

5. Have they generally sought the employment temporarily because of the increased compensation to be commanded or because they wish permanent employment at a remunerative wage?

For the action of those not taken from other departments in the same mill various reasons are given. A few have sought permanent employment—such as girls to learn the trade—but they have been mostly actuated by the promise of extra good wages, heretofore unknown, and from a desire to show a spirit of patriotism. Some have taken the places of husbands or sons in the military service to keep against their return after the war, while some have been forced by the increased cost of living to seek employment.

6. About how will the wages of the substituted labor compare per capita with that of those whose places they take?

Most of the mills report the wage scale for women slightly lower than that for the men thus substituted for, 5, 10, and 15 per cent being stated as the difference in different mills, while others report the wage as practically the same. The general wage-scale increase over prewar conditions is more than 5 per cent, and in many cases war bonuses and the extra advantages of piecework add still more to the personal income of the operatives.

Cost of Production—Hours and Output.

7. About how will the cost of production per unit of goods produced by the substituted labor compare with that produced before the substitution? This has reference to the item of labor only, not involving the higher cost of raw material.

The reply is that the difference is so small, if any, that it is not taken seriously into their calculations. If the real substitution was very great it might be noticeable. One large firm says the cost is slightly less, while two others report it is a little more. In the first case, it might be accounted for by the difference in wage scale.

8. Do the substituted female workers work the same number of hours per week? And, on the average, will a given machine produce more or less when in charge of a female operator than when in charge of a male operator?

The weekly hours of labor are the same, but men can be more depended on for overtime. Generally the work of the women is fully as satisfactory as that of the men. In some cases a skilled man will make a machine produce more than the female substitute. Two large mills report a 10 per cent smaller production with the substituted labor.

9. Do the results of the present forced substitution of female for male labor tend to prove to you that female labor is as reliable and

profitable as male labor in departments of work within the physical capacity of female laborers?

The general reply to this question is, "Yes." One firm says, "No; with exceptions." Another firm says, "In our weaving department the results are not as satisfactory as when we had more men employed there"; and another says, "Not quite so reliable or efficient as male labor."

After-the-War Labor Conditions.

10. What, in your opinion, will probably be the condition of this substituted labor after the war? Will it be required, or will it have been only a temporary necessity growing out of the extraordinary needs created by the war?

The consensus of opinion is that very much will depend on the conditions of trade, but in all probability no labor seeking employment will be turned aside. One of the most perplexing of the economic problems will probably be that of labor wage scales. With a much higher cost of living, it can not be expected or hoped for that the wage scales will fall back to pre-war rates, and the employment of a more than normal quantity of female labor may depend much upon the compensation paid. In this connection I will quote some of the statements made in reply to this general inquiry:

"In all probability fewer men and more women will be employed as weavers after the war, but this change would affect the labor market but little." "Think it probable that conditions will largely swerve back to those obtaining before the war." "If trade continues good we shall require all the labor we can get." "All will be required if we are not too exhausted when the war is over. The demand for reconstruction over such large areas of the Continent and the great scarcity of materials of all kinds for civilian life means any amount of arrears to make up." "It all depends on the state of trade after the declaration of peace." "A considerable proportion of the women will stop working if their husbands and sons return to their previous employment." "All will be required owing to the reversion to normal trade."

[For figures relating to the substitution of female labor in industries other than the textile see COMMERCE REPORTS for Sept. 29, 1917.]

FORAGE PLANT SEED IMPORTS DURING OCTOBER.

The following table prepared in the Seed Laboratory of the Bureau of Plant Industry, United States Department of Agriculture, shows the amount of the various kinds of forage plant seeds subject to the seed importation act permitted entry into the United States during the month of October, 1917, as compared with October, 1916.

Kind of seed.	October, 1916.	October, 1917.	Kind of seed.	October, 1916.	October, 1917.
	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>		<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>
Blue grass: Canada.....		2,500	Millet—Continued.		
Clover:			Broom corn.....	28,400	
Alsike.....	608,000	148,300	Orchard grass.....	616,900	
Crimson.....	495,400	73,500	Rape, winter.....	542,500	3,054,700
Red.....	478,400	83,400	Rye grass:		
White.....	9,300	2,000	English.....	91,600	54,300
Clover mixtures: Alsike and			Italian.....	86,500	13,400
white.....	3,700		Vetch:		
Millet:			Spring.....	22,000	
Hungarian or German....	20,900		Hairy.....	5,000	1,600

DEVELOPING THE TANNING INDUSTRY IN INDIA.

[Indian (Government) Trade Journal, Sept. 7.]

At the opening meeting of the Imperial Legislative Council's autumn session at Simla on the 5th instant His Excellency the Viceroy, in the course of his presidential speech, said:

The simultaneous export of raw hides and raw tanning has often suggested to economists the desirability of developing the tanning industry in India. Hitherto enterprises in this direction have been attended with but limited success. However, to meet the war office demand for leather tanners in India have now been given orders on a scale that has encouraged them to reform their methods, and by having to work regularly to a rigid standard of high quality a striking improvement in their work has already taken place.

In order more fully to turn to account the various natural tan stuffs of India, the munitions board, with the general consent of a group of Central Indian States, has taken over the tannery at Maihar to test new tan stuffs, new combinations of known materials, new processes, and the manufacture of concentrated tan extracts. The experimental work at this tannery is controlled by a committee composed of members of the tanning industries and expert leather chemists. Those results which, on an experimental scale, appear to be successful are being tested on a commercial scale at the Allahabad tannery, recently purchased for the purpose. The results as they become established will be published for the benefit of tanners in other parts of India, any of whom will be welcome to inspect the processes in actual operation at Allahabad.

In cooperation with the Forest Department the Munitions Board has organized the collection of those materials that are shown by the experimental work to be promising tan stuffs and has arranged with the railway companies for their distribution at uniform and low rates of freight. A certain number of students are already being entertained as apprentices, and it is hoped later on to develop this side of the work by the formation at Allahabad of an institute in which the scientific aspects of tanning will be taught in conjunction with practical work on a commercial scale in the tannery itself.

ENERGY OF AMERICAN FIRMS WINS TRADE IN NEW ZEALAND.

[The Hardware Trade Journal, London, England.]

A large hardware firm in New Zealand has just called the British trade commissioner's attention to the methods sometimes adopted by American firms in order to obtain trade in New Zealand.

A representative of an American varnish manufacturer recently called and informed the hardware firm referred to that he proposed to take orders for varnish in their district, and further that all such orders should eventually be passed through that firm if they would agree to take up an agency for, and to stock, the goods manufactured by his principal.

The result of compliance with this arrangement was that orders for quantities amounting to 3,000 gallons of varnish were handed to the firm by the American representatives, and, according to their own statement, the firm's sales of American varnish, as compared with other varnishes, are now in the proportion of 50 to 1.

The representative, it is said, carried a small book of thin sheets of wood varnished in a most attractive manner, fastened together on the loose-leaf principle, and with an attractive binding. The appearance of this book was very pleasing and probably facilitated the transaction of new business.

In this connection the New Zealand firm also informed the trade commissioner that when the war broke out an American firm of paint and varnish manufacturers voluntarily offered to pay half of all additional freight rates occasioned by the war.

SOUTH AFRICA'S WATTLE-BARK TRADE.

[Handelsberichten, The Hague, Netherlands, Aug. 2.]

Wattle bark is a product of the "black wattle," one of the acacias known to botanists as *Acacia mollissima*, which is said to have been imported about 35 years ago from Australia into Natal, where it is now cultivated very extensively, chiefly for the excellent tanning material it furnishes in its bark. In 1914 the area of the black-wattle plantations was about 200,000 acres. The fall in the price of the product, which resulted from the lack of shipping soon after the outbreak of the war, induced many planters to utilize their lands in other ways, and the area of the plantations was reduced.

Wattle bark contains a high percentage of tannin, and its use has increased considerably in recent years. The tanning material is easily obtained and gives both weight and strength to leather, so that it can be used not only for sole leather, but also for harness and upper leather. The following table shows the area planted in South Africa, the exports, and the average value per ton during the last 10 years:

Year.	Acreage planted.	Exports.		Average value per ton.
		Long tons.	Value.	
1907.....	48,640	24,320	\$678,332	\$27.89
1908.....	49,698	24,849	654,946	26.35
1909.....	71,542	35,771	947,468	26.46
1910.....	82,688	41,344	1,067,871	25.83
1911.....	95,290	49,645	1,409,124	28.38
1912.....	105,542	52,771	1,377,268	26.10
1913.....	200,000	65,053	1,505,350	23.14
1914.....	200,000	58,132	1,368,761	23.38
1915.....	190,000	40,027	950,155	23.74
1916.....	.....	50,867	1,240,296	24.38

It is expected that the cultivation of the black wattle will increase greatly in the near future, as there is a scarcity of tanning materials in the United Kingdom. It is reported that British tanners are planning to purchase all the bark produced in Natal. According to reports from London, representatives of the British tanners are already on their way to South Africa; they are expected to have the bark converted into solid extract and to ship it in that form. That appears to be impossible, however, for the factory established at Merebank in Natal lacks the necessary machinery, and some time must elapse before it will be ready to commence operation.

Most of the Bark Is Exported.

South Africa itself consumes but a small quantity of the product. Prior to the war the United Kingdom was the best market for wattle bark, followed by Hamburg, Australia, Russia, Belgium, and New Zealand. Hamburg usually reexported large quantities to the Netherlands. Exportation was hampered greatly by the outbreak of the war; only 58,000 tons of the bark were exported from South Africa in 1914, although it had been expected that the amount would reach 75,000 tons. Germany and other foreign markets having been closed by the war, the United States stepped in and began purchasing large quantities, and the exports to Australia also increased. During the past year considerable quantities were shipped to Russia, via Vladivostok.

The following table shows the exports of wattle bark from the Union of South Africa during the last five years, by countries of destination:

Exported to—	1912	1913	1914	1915	1916
	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>
Austria-Hungary.....	968,069	820,298	739,698		
Belgium.....	1,684,913	900,109	419,037		
France.....	840,887	2,124,703	1,101,492		
Germany.....	32,522,378	30,745,850	25,904,174		
Netherlands.....	89,600		22,503		
Russia.....	2,334,115	2,018,145	708,961		14,571,292
United Kingdom.....	62,007,314	99,203,808	92,376,338	67,932,790	56,797,209
United States.....		228,246		3,080,549	25,566,017
British India.....				1,581,821	3,294,852
Japan.....			1,344,245	5,655	1,780,896
Australia.....	16,072,668	8,871,278	7,156,368	16,991,081	11,933,623
New Zealand.....	1,479,786	2,622			
All other countries.....	206,879	802,679	544,100	69,618	298,091
Total.....	118,207,599	145,717,738	130,216,826	89,061,464	113,941,486

Before the war the freight rate for bark had been \$7.30 a ton, but rose to \$12.65 soon after the outbreak of hostilities, and in the past year as much as \$29.20 had to be paid. Freight was also charged by space, amounting to \$14 per 40 cubic feet. The present rate to London, as quoted by the Union Castle Co., is \$12.77 per space ton of 40 cubic feet, plus 20 per cent, or \$24.33 per ton of 2,240 pounds, plus 20 per cent, at the option of the steamship company, but the line is not now carrying any bark, all available space being reserved for corn and other foodstuffs. Other steamship lines have no fixed tariffs, but their rates during the war have, as a rule, been higher than those of the Union Castle Co. The Durban-New York rates are as follows: Bark, cut, in bags, \$31.63 per 2,240 pounds, net; extract in solid blocks, \$57.79 for the same quantity.

First Shipment of Extract—Prices.

South Africa's first shipment of the extract prepared from wattle bark was made in April of the past year. It was the product of the Natal Tanning Extract Co. (Ltd.) at Pietermaritzburg, and the whole quantity, 982,454 pounds, valued at \$70,340, went to London. The extract is cast in forms while still liquid and solidifies into hard blocks. It is shipped in sacks. The freight rate for the extract by the Union Castle Co. to London now is \$23.48 per ton of 2,240 pounds, plus 20 per cent.

The prices of the bark in South Africa have fluctuated between \$21.90 and \$26.75 per ton, f. o. b. port of shipment. The prices in the British market formerly were \$58.40 to \$65.70 per ton of cut bark, c. i. f., and \$65.70 to \$71.80 for ground bark. Owing to the scarcity of tanning materials, the prices increased rapidly during the first months of the current year; on March 31, 1917, cut bark was quoted at \$73 to \$75.40 and ground bark at \$82.75 to \$83.95 per ton. The market price for cut bark in bags at Durban is now \$23.70 to \$24.35 per long ton, f. a. q. [fair average quality]. The extract is not traded in in South Africa, so that no quotations can be given. In London the price of bark, cut, in bags, now is \$73 to \$82.75 per ton. The extract was quoted in February at \$170.35 to \$184.95 per ton.

WATTLE CULTURAL METHODS IN NATAL.

In connection with the foregoing review of South Africa's trade in wattle bark, the following brief discussion of cultural and drying

methods, taken from Daily Consular and Trade Reports for January 30, 1908, may be of interest:

There is an erroneous impression that wattle will grow in almost any kind of soil, but the fact is that discretion should be used in the selection of the ground for the purpose. A well-drained soil and an annual rainfall of 20 to 40 inches are essential, and the sowing of the seed and laying out of the trees require more than ordinary care. Plowing is generally done in April and September, and a single-furrow plow drawn by oxen is used in the initial turning over of the soil.

The seed is then scalded in boiling water and planted at once, to prevent its molding or premature sprouting. It was discovered, possibly in Australia, that seed treated in this way would grow more readily, and nearly all planters have adopted the method. The rows are set 9 or 10 feet apart, and the seed at the same distance. After six weeks sprouting takes place. The young trees are allowed to grow for one year, at the end of which time they are thinned out and a second lot of seed planted. In this manner five or six generations of trees are set in, each just one year apart; and about the time the youngest trees are ready for thinning out the first generation is sufficiently developed for felling and stripping, and the space thus created is readily filled by the other trees coming on. After the fifth or sixth planting additional preparation of the soil or sowing is unnecessary, as there is always sufficient seed sown by the trees to maintain a regrowth of such abundance that it is only necessary to thin out the crops annually.

Experience teaches that trees should be kept at a uniform distance apart, but there are no fixed rules, and trees can be frequently found growing in the most promiscuous manner. To prevent destruction of the trees by veldt fires, so common to South Africa, clearings of considerable width are cut at the edges and sometimes around the entire forest.

Wattle has not been grown with any degree of success either near the coast or in the thorn veldt, but thrives throughout a strip of land lying between 15 and 70 miles from the coast, and in the districts adjoining the foothills of the Drakensburg Mountains. The Umvoti and Pietermaritzburg counties are particularly well adapted to its cultivation, and the tree is also grown in some parts of Zululand with satisfactory results.

Preparation for Market—Labor.

The felling and stripping is done either in May or in December, as the bark then contains its highest percentage of tannin and also because it can be dried to much better advantage during seasons in the year when there is little danger of exposure to rains or dews. Notwithstanding most of the felling is done when the tree is but five or six years of age, a few planters prefer to allow the tree to attain a growth of seven to ten years, but the increased returns are not proportionate, and the delay in felling is rather a hindrance to the younger trees, which require more space each year as they grow and naturally are retarded if crowded too closely.

Drying sheds are used on many plantations, and when outside drying is too rapid to permit the bark to be easily stripped the trees are carried inside. Thorough drying requires two weeks' time under proper climatic conditions. The bark is then chopped or ground and made ready for shipment to the local buyers, who in turn sort out the various grades and repack for exportation to the outside markets. As a rule, the bark is chopped or cut into half-inch pieces and packed in sacks of 3 bushels and weighing about 185 pounds each. Most of the product has been exported in this form, but an effort is now being made to erect plants in the colony for the purpose of grinding the bark and manufacturing an extract suitable for the trade.

After stripping off the bark the remaining timber is sold for use in timbering mines and for various kinds of construction work; it is also extensively employed as scaffolding in the erection of buildings. The waste cuttings and faggots are sold as firewood, for which there is at all times a ready and profitable market in the colonies.

Conservative estimates place the average annual crop of wattle at 4 to 5 tons of bark and 20 to 30 tons of good timber to the acre. The cost of preparing the ground and planting varies from \$7.50 to \$10 an acre; while the cost of production averages about \$35 an acre, including the land, fencing, taxes, and labor. Labor is performed chiefly by coolies (Indians). Wages are paid at the rate of \$0.25 to \$0.50 a day, and ordinarily a coolie will fell his trees and strip and lay out for drying a half ton of bark per day of 10 hours.

PROPOSALS FOR GOVERNMENT SUPPLIES AND CONSTRUCTION.

[Correspondence should be direct with the offices named, and specifications and other information can usually be obtained at the points where the goods are to be delivered or the work is to be performed. In cases where the time limit is too short to permit firms to submit tenders, they should ask to be placed on the mailing lists of such offices to receive notices calling for future supplies or work of a similar nature.]

Panama Canal supplies, No. 4889.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the General Purchasing Officer of the Panama Canal, Washington, D. C., until November 13, 1917, for furnishing, by steamer, free of all charges, on dock at either Colon (Atlantic port) or port of Ancon (Balboa, Canal Zone) (Pacific port), Isthmus of Panama, the following articles: Steel, boiler tubes, chain, poultry netting, steel wire, sheet copper, brass tubing, shackles, screws, grommets, cotters, dies, cable clips, screw eyes, hinges, locks, door bolts, latches, bed knobs, casters, hose nozzles, belt lacing, tool handles, oars, brooms, brushes, tackle blocks, grindstones, pushcarts, garbage cans, buckets, oilers, lanterns, lamp chimneys, lantern globes, window glass, and glass table tops. Circular No. 1178.

Linseed oil, No. 4890.—Sealed proposals will be received by the lighthouse inspector, Tompkinsville, N. Y., until November 12, 1917, for 3,000 gallons of boiled linseed oil.

Desks, No. 4891.—Quotations at lowest prices are desired by the Field Medical Supply Depot, United States Army, 21 M Street NE., Washington, D. C., not later than November 13, 1917, for delivering free from all charges, 2,000 field desks, No. 2, made of wood as per specifications.

Water system, No. 4892.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Office of Indian Affairs, Department of the Interior, Washington, D. C., until December 6, 1917, for furnishing materials and labor for an addition to the water system at Navajo School, Arizona.

Panama Canal supplies, No. 4893.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the general purchasing officer, the Panama Canal, Washington, D. C., until November 15, 1917, for furnishing, by steamer, free of all charges, on dock at either Colon (Atlantic port) or port of Ancon (Balboa, Canal Zone) (Pacific port), Isthmus of Panama, the following articles: Hose, rubber tubing, packing, asbestos gaskets, rubber valves, manila rope, cotton rope, twine, canvas belting, leather belting, leather, ticking, burlap, toweling, linoleum, doormats, gloves, rubber boots, bread baskets, thermometers, water coolers, kitchen utensils, dishes, cutlery, emery cloth, sandpaper, blank books, paper, paper cups, typewriter ribbons, paper clips, crayons, pencils, lump chalk, asbestos cement, magnesia pipe covering, matches, soap, lye, borax, and soap polish.

Consul C. Ludlow Livingston, at Barbados, British West Indies, reports that the colonial postmaster has announced that foreign mail, to which the rate of 1 penny (2 cents) per ounce applies, now requires in addition a war-tax stamp amounting to 1 penny, making the total cost per ounce 4 cents.

OFFICES OF THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE.**DISTRICT OFFICES.**

NEW YORK: 734 Customhouse.
BOSTON: 1801 Customhouse.
CHICAGO: 504 Federal Building.
ST. LOUIS: 402 Third National Bank Building.
NEW ORLEANS: 1020 Hibernia Bank Building.
SAN FRANCISCO: 307 Customhouse.
SEATTLE: 348 Henry Building.

COOPERATIVE OFFICES.

CLEVELAND: Chamber of Commerce.
CINCINNATI: Chamber of Commerce.
CINCINNATI: General Freight Agent, Southern Railway, 96 Ingalls Building.
LOS ANGELES: Chamber of Commerce.
PHILADELPHIA: Chamber of Commerce.
CHATTANOOGA: South American Agent, Southern Railway System.
PORTLAND, OREG.: Chamber of Commerce.
DAYTON: Greater Dayton Association.

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the Bureau and its district and cooperative offices. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and state opportunity number. The Bureau does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases. Symbols: * Reported by American consular officers; † Reported by commercial attachés and commercial agents; ‡ Direct inquiries received by the Bureau.

In considering the following "opportunities" special regard should be had to the laws and regulations governing export licenses and trading with the enemy.

Augers and files.....	25770	Mining materials and tools.....	25767
Automobiles and accessories.....	25767	Motion pictures.....	25767
Blankets.....	25765	Optical goods.....	25768
Calendars.....	25771	Paints and varnishes.....	25767
Canned goods.....	25768	Paper and cardboard.....	25767
Carpets.....	25765	Pencils.....	25768
Chemical products.....	25767	Rubber goods.....	25767, 25768
Construction iron.....	25767	Silverware.....	25768
Dried fruits.....	25768	Steel.....	25766, 25767
Drilling material.....	25767	Stoves.....	25772
Hardware.....	25768	Table covers.....	25765
Machinery.....	25767, 25768	Textiles.....	25764
Margarine.....	25769	Tinware and zinc.....	25767

25764.*—A firm in British East Africa desires to purchase manufactured textiles, such as cotton shirtings, drills, etc. Complete information in regard to goods desired may be had on application to the Bureau or its district offices. A complete line of samples may also be examined at the above-mentioned offices. (Refer to file No. 93881.)

25765.*—A wholesaler and retailer in Italy is in the market for large lots of wool carpets, woolen blankets, and linen, cloth, and velvet table covers. An illustrated catalogue and sample of carpet may be examined at the Bureau or its district offices. (Refer to file No. 93585.) Correspondence should be in French or Italian. Reference.

25766.†—The naval commission of a foreign Government stationed in the United States will receive proposals until November 19, 1917, for the provision of 212 tons of hull and boiler steel, such as steel plates, shapes, etc. It will furnish specifications, etc., on request.

25767.*—An agency is desired by a man in Algeria for the sale of tinware, steel, sheet steel, construction iron, zinc, automobiles and accessories, rubber goods, motion-picture films, paints and varnishes, paper and cardboard, chemical products, agricultural and viticultural machinery, mining materials and tools, and drilling material for petroleum. Correspondence should be in French. Reference.

25768.‡—The representative of a firm in France who is stationed in the United States desires to be placed in communication with American manufacturers and exporters of canned goods, dried fruits, light hardware, silverware, rubber goods, special machinery, optical glasses, etc., and pencils, with a view to securing agencies for the sale of same. Outright purchases will be made, if necessary, payment being made by cash in New York. References.

25769.*—A man in Ireland wishes to purchase or secure an agency for the sale of best quality margarine in large quantities. Quotations should be made f. o. b. Atlantic seaboard. Quotations are desired in British currency. The margarine should be put up in wooden boxes containing 24 blocks of 1 pound each, the blocks to be properly wrapped. Usual credit terms are desired. Reference.

25770.*—A firm in Italy is in the market for ordinary augers and files. Catalogues and samples should be submitted wherever possible. Credit will be opened in New York for payment. Correspondence should be in French or Italian. Reference.

25771.*—An agency is desired by a commission merchant in Spain for the sale of calendars. Correspondence should be in Spanish. References.

25772.*—A firm in Portugal wishes to secure an agency for the sale of cooking stoves. Quotations should be made f. o. b. New York. Correspondence may be in English. References.

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PRINCETON, N. J.



DAILY CONSULAR AND TRADE REPORTS
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No. 261 Washington, D. C., Wednesday, November 7 1917

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ESTIMATED EGYPTIAN COTTON CROP.

[Cablegram from American Consul at Alexandria, dated Nov. 3.]

The 1917-18 Egyptian cotton crop is estimated at 6,250,000 cantars of 99 pounds.

BRITISH TRADING RESTRICTIONS IN BALL BEARINGS.

[Cablegram from American Consul General, London.]

Minister of Munitions from November 1 forbids manufacture, sale, and delivery of ball bearings or roller bearings or any part thereof except under license. Applications should be addressed to Director of Ball Bearings, Ministry of Munitions.

SUEZ CANAL TOLLS INCREASED.

American Minister William G. Sharp, at Paris, reports that he has received a communication from the Compagnie Universelle du Canal Maritime de Suez, informing him that from January 1, 1918, the canal tolls for vessels in ballast will be 8.50 francs per ton.

FRENCH IMPORTS ORDERED THROUGH LYON FAIR.

A cablegram of October 29 from Consul J. E. Jones, Lyon, France, states that the French Foreign Office agrees to give the utmost consideration to all requests for the importation of goods sold through the medium of the Lyon fair. In view of the present French regulations requiring licenses for practically all imports into France, any concessions which the Foreign Office may have in view will be of service to American exporters.

Under the title of "Trade opportunities in France," an account is given in COMMERCE REPORTS of July 18 of the activities of Consul J. E. Jones in representing American interests at the Lyon Sample Fair in 1916. Preparations for the third fair, which will open on March 1, 1918, are described in detail in a report from Consul Jones published in COMMERCE REPORTS for August 6.

SHEFFIELD'S ELECTRIC-SUPPLY DEPARTMENT.

[Consul John M. Savage, Sheffield, England, Oct. 15.]

The report of the electric-supply department of the Sheffield City Corporation for the fiscal year ended March 25, 1917, which was recently issued, shows an extraordinary development of the undertaking during that period. The plant has been largely extended at a cost of £243,725 (\$1,186,088) making the capital account now stand at £2,100,272 (\$10,220,976), and 8,500 kilowatts of additional generating plant is still in course of construction.

Large Increases in Successive Years.

The number of units sold has increased 62 per cent—from 77,868,027 to 126,476,858; the revenue has increased 62 per cent—from £277,580 (\$1,350,813) to £450,088 (\$2,190,353); the turnover of the installation and motor department has increased 50 per cent, and during the year it has installed motors representing 8,046 horsepower. The balance on the year's operations amounted to more than £95,493, of which £55,000 was transferred to the renewals and special-expenditure fund, and £40,493 to special depreciation suspense account. These increases are all the more remarkable in view of the fact that the year ended March 25, 1916, showed large increases in every department over the preceding year.

The average prices per unit charged during the past five years have ranged as follows: For light and heat, from 4.34 cents in 1916 to 5.52 cents in 1913; for power, from 1.42 cents in 1916 to 1.52 cents in 1913; total average, from 1.70 cents in 1917 to 2.42 cents in 1913. The total cost per unit sold during the year, including cost of production, management, rates, taxes, etc., and capital charges was 1.36 cents.

NEW ZEALAND SOCIETIES PROTECT BIRDS AND ANIMALS.

[Consul General Alfred A. Winslow, Auckland, Sept. 6.]

There are 29 acclimatization societies in New Zealand organized for the purpose of protecting the native game birds and animals of the country, and in introducing other game birds and animals and for the protection of the same. These societies are regularly organized and chartered by the New Zealand Government, with full authority to own property and carry on a regular business under the supervision of the Government.

The Auckland branch covers a large portion of the Province of Auckland, with headquarters in this city, the game farm being at Drury, some 20 miles south of this city.

These societies have introduced a large number of pheasants of different classes, Californian quail, Australian opossums, woodcock, rainbow trout, salmon, and other species, all of which seem to be making good progress.

These societies also make it a point to destroy all enemies of game birds and animals, and have offered a reward of 12 cents a head for the destruction of hawks that prey on game birds, fowls, and especially young lambs, which they attack when very young. The Auckland society alone during the fiscal year ended March 31, 1917, paid the bounty on about 12,000 hawks, and this work is carried on by all of the societies in New Zealand.

GERMAN METHODS IN THE TURKISH MARKET.

The Germans' campaign to dominate Turkish markets has been characterized by systematic dumping, extensive imitation of patented American articles, and a persistent and carefully organized solicitation of the trade. Some features of their determined and adroit methods are brought out in a bulletin on "Turkish markets for American hardware," which has been published by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

As is the case with various other important lines, American hardware has not, as a rule, been sold directly to the Turkish distributor. In normal times it is sold through a few firms in Hamburg and Bremen. These concerns have houses in New York, but it is erroneous to consider them as American export organizations. They are German jobbers, working according to German methods and for German interests. They ship American articles to Turkey only if they can not be replaced on the same terms by German articles. Under such conditions it is an easy matter to market imitations of American goods, and the Germans are master imitators, according to the author of the report, Consul General G. B. Ravndal, who was formerly at Constantinople. Sometimes their catalogues show American articles on one page and the German imitation on the opposite page, with the advantages of price, quick delivery, etc., of the German goods conspicuously indicated. These imitations are very close, proceeding even to the brand and name of the article, and there is always a reduction in price. That the Germans keep the American article in the catalogues at all must be ascribed to the fact that there are people in Turkey who appreciate the excellence of the American product, in spite of all manipulations and deceptions, and insist on having what they want.

American Business Held Without Effort.

It is surprising to learn that in spite of conditions under which it is sold in Turkey, American hardware had gained an important position before the war solely on its merits. It may be surprising even to American manufacturers, many of whom are probably unaware that their goods are sold there at all. Of all the shelf hardware marketed in Turkey fully 60 per cent is sold as American, and 20 per cent of it actually is American. The holding of 20 per cent of a country's business in a given line without the least effort to obtain it is a fact which commends itself to the careful consideration of all those whose wares are involved. The possibilities to which such conditions point when the war is over are fully discussed in the report. The author has outlined practical methods of getting around the old difficulties in the way of selling goods directly to Turkey, and has described the demand for the various articles in detail. The nature of the competition that may be expected in each case is carefully pointed out.

Copies of "Turkish markets for American hardware," Special Consular Reports No. 77, are sold at the nominal price of 10 cents by the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C., and by the district and cooperative offices of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

DISTILLATION OF GERANIUM OIL IN INDIA.

In a recent issue the Indian (Government) Trade Journal quotes from a note on the distillation of geranium oil in the Nilgiris prepared by the chemical adviser to the Forest Research Institute at Dehra Dun, in which it is stated:

While carrying out experiments in connection with the steam distillation of eucalyptus oil in the Nilgiris last winter the writer observed the profuse growth of wild geranium in certain localities. It was found that none of the Nilgiri distillers has ever tried to distill from it the well-known geranium oil, though many of them admitted that the herb grew in great abundance in a wild state, which could be still further augmented by cultivation. This note is written for the information of those interested in the development of the essential-oil industry in the Nilgiris, to show that the cultivation of geranium would in all probability lead to good results, especially as its distillation could be combined with that of eucalyptus oil without incurring any additional expenditure.

True geranium oil is distilled from the fresh herb of several species of *Pelargonium*, chiefly *Pelargonium odoratissimum*, *P. capitatum*, and *P. roseum*. (The plant collected by the writer has been identified for him as *Pelargonium graveolens*, L'Herit.) The geranium plants cultivated and used for distillation are generally varieties of these species, which, however, do not correspond exactly with the wild plants. Duccelier states that the plant is cultivated in open fields in many parts of Algeria, notably at La Truppe de Staoueli Castiglione, Sahel, and near Algiers and Constantine. It is also largely cultivated in the South of France, in Spain, in Italy, Corsica, Réunion, and in Provence.

The oil occurs mainly in the flowers and in the green leaves. The stem, the leaves which have turned yellow, and other parts of the plant have no oil in them. The plants are gathered just before the opening of the flowers, when the citron-like aroma begins to change into a rose-like scent. The whole plant is put into the still. Sometimes the distillers, in order to make the aroma finer, add a small quantity of rose petals, the distillate of oil from which is commercially known as rose-geranium.

Yield and Constituents—Cultural Methods in Other Countries.

The yield of oil is stated to vary with the locality and with the varieties used for distillation. The leaves of *P. odoratissimum* yield in France from 0.1 to 0.2 per cent and in Corsica 0.125 to 0.166 per cent; in Reunion the leaves of *P. capitatum* give 0.1 to 0.14 per cent of oil. In Italy, it is stated, by careful distillation the flowers once gave 1.5 to 1.98 per cent and the leaves 0.7 to 0.8 per cent. In Sicily, on the other hand, only 0.07 per cent was obtained. The major portion of the geranium oil of commerce comes from Africa and Reunion.

The main constituent of the oil is geraniol, but citronellal is also present. In addition to the free alcohols, tiglic acid esters, together with small quantities of caproic acid esters, are also present. Traces of acetic, butyric, and valeric acids have also been detected. The oil has 60 to 70 per cent of the geraniol and 15 to 25 per cent combined geraniol in the form of esters. Schirmel & Co. report the presence of linalool, one of the amyl alcohols, pinene, and phellandrene. Pure geranium oil is soluble in three times its volume of 70 per cent alcohol, which is a very reliable test for the detection of turpentine and fatty oils.

The geranium is propagated in Algeria by cuttings, but it is not necessary to renew the plantations every year, as is done in the South of France, for the climate of Algeria is rather warmer and the plants are therefore not killed by frost in the winter. It is said that in Mitidja the plant sometimes attains an age of 12 years. It often happens that the plant is in leaf throughout the year, but there are occasions in Algeria also when the geranium plantations suffer severely from frost. In the South of France the pelargonias are treated as annuals; that is to say, every spring the fields are planted with fresh cuttings, which have been collected during the autumn and left to winter in protected spots. In the South of France there is only one crop yearly—in the autumn; but in Algeria three crops are gathered every year. In the South of France it is necessary to have recourse to intensive culture by irrigation and rich manuring in order to make the single crop pay. In Algeria the flowers are cut for the first time in early spring; the second cutting is in June; and the third, if any, in October and November.

In addition to suffering from the ravages of insects, the pelargonium plants are frequently attacked by *Cuscuta*, a parasitic plant belonging to the natural

order Convolvulaceæ. It is also said that species of *Orobanchæ* (natural order Scrophulariaceæ) thrive upon the geranium plants. On the other hand, according to Ducellier, the *Oidium* species, which afflicts garden geraniums, has not been observed in Algeria or other districts where the geranium is grown for distilling. Rumors of a cryptogam disease which obtained currency some years ago have not been confirmed. The grass *Cynodon dactylon*, L., however, is an extremely noxious weed and most difficult to eradicate.

Its Cultivation in the Nilgiris Recommended.

It was not possible to do more than carry through the distillation of one charge of the geranium growing in the Nilgiris. The season of collection was also unfavorable for obtaining the best results, as the flowers had all opened and the greater portion of the leaf surface had begun to turn yellow. Five hundred pounds of the plant, consisting of the entire stem with leaves and flowers, containing 56 per cent of moisture, were distilled. Only 3.5 ounces, or 0.044 per cent, of water-free filtered oil were obtained. Considering the season in which the plant was collected, the yield was satisfactory, and it will be safe to assume that the Nilgiri geranium is normal in its oil-content. Further experiments on these lines must, however, be made before we can be said to have got full and sufficient data on the subject, and this can only be done if the cultivation of the plant is taken in hand.

It is recommended that its cultivation be encouraged in the Nilgiris as an auxiliary crop for the use of eucalyptus distillers. The climate of Ootacamund is well suited for its cultivation. The Nilgiri plant yields an oil of excellent aroma, having 46.60 per cent of free geraniol and 28.19 per cent of combined geraniol, for which a sale can be readily found even in India.

BRITISH OFFICIAL DISCUSSES REEMPLOYMENT AFTER WAR.

[Copsul Franklin D. Hale, Huddersfield, Sept. 27.]

Hon. G. H. Roberts, M. P., Minister of Labor, in a recent address on "Reemployment after the war," said that the employment exchanges under his department already had placed 62,000 men discharged from the Army in civil employment. Plans were being formulated for demobilization, determining the rate at which men would be disbanded, and the principles that would determine the operation.

Subject to certain reservations, priority in demobilization, he said, would be given to those men for whom situations were waiting, and to men belonging to industries of a very essential character, while first consideration would be given to those men who had been serving from the early days of the war. On being discharged from the Army, the men would be given a month's holiday with full pay and allowances.

Mr. Roberts said further that the Government scheme of unemployment benefits would provide for at least 10 shillings (\$2.40) per week to over 3,500,000 men and women, while a further 1,250,000 would receive aid from trade-union funds.

The demobilization of employees in munition factories would be so planned that too large numbers in any given industry should not be dismissed at one time. The work of restoring disbanded men to civil employment would be greatly assisted by 400 labor exchanges with their 1,000 suboffices now in existence.

He further said it was expected that trade would be good after the war, economists generally taking an optimistic view of the situation, but employers and employees must readjust themselves and cordially cooperate in the work of intensified production.

CONSTRUCTION WORK.**BRITISH GUIANA.**

[Consul G. E. Chamberlin, Georgetown, Sept. 28.]

Suggested Harbor Work.

Early in 1916 an American consulting engineer came to British Guiana to investigate and report on the sea defenses of the colony. His report was completed in July last year, and work of construction was immediately commenced in accordance with his recommendations, which will probably require two or three years to complete. [See **COMMERCE REPORTS** for Sept. 26 and Oct. 13, 1917.] Last spring the Government requested him to investigate the cause of the changes in the river channel and bar at the mouth of the Demerara River and to recommend a scheme for their improvement. His report on this second project has just been published.

To deal with the problem of the bar he advises the construction of a breakwater 12,000 feet in length, which he suggests should be built of reinforced concrete, and the purchase of a suction dredge. He recommends that steps be taken as soon as possible to properly mark the entrance channel by laying down four gas buoys and by removing the existing lightship and mooring an unattended light vessel at the seaward end of the channel, and the erection of a lighthouse to the west of the mouth of the Essequibo River. The estimated cost of the proposed work is \$1,242,255, made up of 12,000 feet of reinforced concrete breakwater at \$83 per running foot, \$996,000; concreting sides and top of existing Fort groyne, \$7,000; suction dredge complete, \$104,000; cost of lighthouse at Hampton Court, \$34,600; installation of four gas buoys, \$5,000; installation of unattended light vessel, \$36,500; and a 5 per cent engineering fee. The formation of a harbor board, under whose control the harbor should be placed, is also suggested.

[A copy of the engineer's detailed report has been forwarded by Consul Chamberlin. This will be loaned to interested American firms by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, at Washington. Refer to file No. 94268.]

ENGLAND.

[Consul Homer M. Byington, Hull, Oct. 3.]

Construction Work at Hull.

At a meeting of the Hull Corporation Works committee, held on October 3, 1917, the following plans were approved: An oil refinery for Messrs. J. B. Walker and Co. (Ltd.), a lard factory at Wilmington for the British Oil & Cake Mills (Ltd.), a warehouse in Maxwell Street for the Humber Fishing and Fish Manure Co., and a warehouse in the Beverley Road for Messrs. Blundell Spence and Co.

At the monthly meeting of the Hornsea Urban Council on October 1, 1917, it was announced that sites for the erection of workman's dwellings after the war have been selected, and the surveyor instructed to prepare plans for future consideration.

MEXICO.

[Vice Consul Luther K. Zabriskie, Mexico City, Oct. 20.]

Permit Granted for Construction of Railroad Through State of Chiapas.

The issue of *El Pueblo* for October 20 states that some time ago various capitalists solicited from the Secretary of Communications

authorization for the construction of a new and important railroad in the State of Chiapas, which will start from the city of Tapachula, cross over the important coffee regions, and terminate at the port of San Benito, whence the products of those rich zones will be exported. The publication continues:

According to reliable information, the President of the Republic has decided in favor of the project, and gave the concession for the establishment of the railroad line as above indicated.

The actual construction work will be begun the first part of January, and with this end in view the necessary orders for rails and sleepers have already been made.

The concessionaires have agreed to conclude the road within a period not to exceed six months, dating from January 1, 1918.

For the purpose of lending an impulse to the enterprise, the estate owners of the State of Chiapas have subscribed 800,000 Mexican pesos to be inverted into the stock of the railroad, which, as previously announced will connect the important coffee and henequen bearing zones, which have heretofore lacked convenient means of transportation, so as to afford an outlet for their products.

BRAZILIAN PACKING HOUSES IN MINAS GERAES.

[Consul General Alfred L. Moreau Gottschalk, Rio de Janeiro, Oct. 4.]

Two new packing houses are about to be added to the list of those given in **COMMERCE REPORTS** for March 2, 1917 (p. 825), as now operating in Brazil. One of these is to be at the town of Sitio, and the other (to have a capacity of 400 head of cattle slaughtered per day) is nearing completion at Barbacena. Both places are in the State of Minas Geraes.

The enterprise concerned is the Companhia Pecuaría e Frigorífica de Brazil, working under a concession granted it by Decree No. 11999 of March 22, 1916. Its legal domicile is in the city of Rio de Janeiro. Its purposes is to exploit slaughterhouses, packing houses, and other more or less closely related industries, and to trade and to export the products of such industries.

The company is also the possessor of the concession granted on May 10, 1910, by the State of Minas Geraes to Coronel José Horacio de Lemos. This is only a State concession, but it grants exceedingly wide powers to the concessionaires. Its capital is placed at 5,000 contos of milreis (over \$1,000,000 United States currency).

The company is likewise holder of another concession originally granted to Coronel Horacio José de Lemos, for the slaughtering of cattle and the establishment of packing houses in the State of Rio de Janeiro.

POTATO CROP IN BERMUDA.

[Vice Consul S. W. Ellis, Hamilton, Oct. 24.]

In spite of the heavy rains during the first part of October the potato crop of Bermuda, which was planted in September, has not been damaged materially. Potatoes planted in marsh or rolling lands suffered the most, but a few days' sun will in the majority of cases bring the plants back to a healthy condition. On account of the porosity of the soil in Bermuda the surplus water drains off rapidly.

It is said that if from now on the weather is favorable, very little shortage in the crop is to be expected.

More potatoes have been planted this fall than last, and the yield should be as great, if not greater, than the fall crop of 1916, which was 90,667 bushels.

SHOE MANUFACTURING IN THE PHILIPPINES.

[Commercial Agent C. E. Bosworth, Manila.]

People with the skill and patience to weave transparent cloths by hand, beat old Spanish coins into fine table silver and jewelry, embroider minute figures on the finest silk, weave rattan furniture superior to the best found anywhere else in the world, and do other work quite as exacting in its demands for patience and preciseness, can well be expected to make fine footwear when shown how and given proper materials. These people are the Filipinos, and the man back home who thinks that only in his particular shoe city can creditable footwear be produced will be surprised when he sees the Philippine product for the first time.

The important native shoemaking district is Mariquina, a few miles from Manila. Out there the uppers are cut, skived, and folded by hand, and the deftness of the women who do this work certainly commands admiration. The skiving is particularly fine, the cut being made at as true an angle and as uniform in width as if it were made by machine. The sewing of the uppers is the only machine work entering into them. The making-room work is done by hand and is performed by natives who finish about three pairs in two days.

Class of Materials Used.

The materials used in Mariquina are American calf, black and tan, carabao or vaca sole leather, native tanned. These sole leathers, especially the carabao, have an odor, for they are tanned with camanchile bark, the liquor of which ferments very quickly and smells somewhat worse than crushed wattle seed. It is not at all water-resisting unless waterproofed, and it is seldom so treated by the natives. It makes a splendid insole however, barring the odor, which probably airs out after a while.

On account of the lack of locally made light leathers, these shoes, oxfords particularly, are usually quarter-lined with imitation leather. Small pieces of the upper stock are often pieced together to make the tongues. The stiffeners, shanks, and heels are all made from the sole-leather offal. Lacking pressure machinery, the bottom finish is irregular, and the use of too much paint and polish really disfigures the bottoms; but if that is what their customers demand, there can be no criticism.

The Mariquina shoes are usually made on contract for Chinese merchants who furnish the materials. The women receive from 75 cents to \$1 per dozen for making the uppers, and the men receive about 65 cents a pair for their part of the work. The shoes are sold at wholesale for about \$2.25 a pair.

American Factories.

It is from these Mariquina shoemaking establishments that the two American factories get most of their operatives. The two factories are both in Manila and have a combined capacity of about 500 pairs a day. Sixty pairs a day is the largest reported capacity for a native shop. The two plants are typically American, with American welt-making machinery, for with the exception of native footwear for women and children, only men's shoes are produced in the islands.

The factory of the United States Shoe Co. is a fine big plant of concrete construction, three stories high. That of the Exchange Shoe Co. is a thoroughly modern, well arranged two-story building of mill construction. The United States Shoe Co. maintains a wholesale warehouse and retail store in conjunction with the factory. The Exchange Shoe Co. also has a warehouse, but does not maintain a retail store. Both these companies export to the Dutch East Indies and various Oriental markets.

It is quite possible that exports of Philippine footwear will some day furnish an important item in the islands' commerce, especially, if the tanners make use of their opportunities in the way of raw hides and a plentiful bark supply, and attain an adequate output of both upper and sole leathers in desirable qualities, for these factories have proven that they can make shoes and make them well.

ASTRAKHAN INDUSTRY IN SOUTH AMERICA.

[Consul John P. Bray, Johannesburg, Sept. 3.]

The Government of South Africa is gradually introducing karakul sheep into the Union. The industry is described by a Johannesburg newspaper, which states:

A circular issued by the Department of Agriculture gives particulars of the progress of the flock of karakul sheep (fur-bearing) which came into the hands of the Union Government on the surrender of Southwest Africa. Part of the flock was transferred to the Grootfontein School of Agriculture, Middelburg, and several sales of karakul rams bred at the Government farm in the Protectorate took place in the Union last year. It is also seen that satisfactory results have been obtained from the first rams used. The Department of Agriculture is inquiring closely into the karakul industry, and is conducting a large number of breeding experiments and investigations. The results are entirely satisfactory. Lambs' skins of considerable value and possessing much beauty have been produced in the second and third crosses with the Africander type of ewe as foundation stock. Very promising also are the first crosses obtained from the karakul ram and ewe of woolled Persian type. The crosses from the ordinary black-headed Persian are useful, but present indications are that ewes of the other types are likely to prove the most valuable for grading up a flock of karakuls. Experience shows that flocks producing good skins of astrakhan fur can be established by the use of pure-breed karakul rams with ewes of the kinds mentioned. In the first cross is found a small percentage of marketable skins, and lambs which are three-quarters and seven-eighths bred produce an increasing proportion of good skins.

The prospects of a satisfactory demand for karakul skins are encouraging. During the past few months a small consignment of skins from the Protectorate was submitted to a firm trading in New York. The report was satisfactory, and the wish was expressed that arrangements should be made for a consignment of a few thousand skins to be forwarded. Through the trades commissioner useful information has also been obtained from some firms in London who appear to be well acquainted with the business. It would therefore appear that South African producers need not be dependent upon traders and buyers in central Europe.

Number of Corporations Formed in Norway.

According to Norwegian statistics, 341 new corporations have been formed in that country in the first seven months of this year, having a capital stock of \$29,800,000, compared with 280 corporations with capital of \$13,960,000 in the same period of last year. Existing corporations increased their capital \$16,320,000, compared with an increase of \$3,538,000 in the corresponding period of last year.

WOLFRAMITE ORE IN SOUTH CHINA.

[Consul General P. S. Heintzleman, Canton, Sept. 10.]

A new trade and industrial development of interest in the Canton district has resulted from the growing demand for wolframite ore, and the recent discovery that this mineral is to be found in marketable quantities in Kwangtung Province. The demand comes chiefly from America, and as soon as the ore was known to exist here American merchants immediately set about its exploitation.

Low Prices Paid at First.

Little reliable information on the occurrence and production of wolfram in this district is obtainable. This is not surprising, as the discovery of the ore was made only recently, and the mining bureau has had few applications for mining rights covering this material. Just following the discovery of wolfram ore, in a majority of cases the natives, and even the official deputies mistook it for manganese or iron ore, until the high prices offered raised a suspicion that it must contain something different from the commoner metals. The Japanese first learned of the value of the "iron ore" in Hunan Province, and offered about 27 cents Mexican, or 17 cents gold, a pound for it. Other buyers learned of the bargain, and offered better prices. Now the average ore commands about \$50 Mexican, or \$32 gold, per 100 pounds at Canton.

All Mining is Done by Hand.

Much of the ore comes from Chengchow, Hunan Province, adjacent to the border of Kwangtung Province. It is transported on human shoulders from the mine southward to Ping Shek, Kwangtung, a distance of about 60 miles. From here it is carried in small junks down the North River to Shiuchow, an additional distance of 80 miles, whence it is brought to Canton over the Yueh-Han Railway. All the mining is done by hand. Production and transportation costs are not made public. Many anxious buyers, not waiting for the ore to reach Canton, have established headquarters at Lok Chong, a small town on the west bank of the North River, 40 miles above Shiuchow, where they are able to intercept the cargoes, and get first choice from the middleman who has bought up the ore. The middleman daily collects the goods direct from the miners in varying small amounts.

Several places in Kwangtung are said to produce wolfram ore, but since investigation by the Provincial Government is so limited, and the differentiation of minerals by the natives is so unreliable, the importance of these places must be confirmed by experts. Several, however, are positively known to produce the valuable ore. The Fu Min Co. has a claim at Waichow, on the East River. The corporation permits the natives to mine in the concession, but insists on the exclusive right to buy the product. The current prices paid for the ore to the miners is about \$20 gold per hundredweight, and the company obtains about \$32 gold at Canton. The number of miners engaged in this enterprise varies between 1,000 and 2,000.

The method of mining is principally hand placering. The miners dive for the sand and wash it for the heavy ore. The ore runs from mere dust to the size of walnuts or larger. Again, it is found as

"floats" or decomposed products on the hillsides, where the earth is dug and washed for it.

Lack of Scientific Study.

No proper study of the mode of occurrence of the ore or the geology of the country has been undertaken and very little can be said on these subjects. A small sample of the ore from the Waichow district was analyzed here recently by a qualified mining engineer and chemist. The ore was found to contain 55.84 per cent tungsten, 13.25 per cent iron, 11.56 per cent manganese, and the rest in calcium, magnesium, etc. This sample gives a general idea of the nature of the ore.

Haifong district has been reported to produce wolfram ore, but no actual mining has begun there. Official deputies were sent recently to survey the places, the names of which are still kept from the public.

Kwangsi Province also is said to produce wolfram ore. A Chinese company, while prospecting for antimony ore some time ago in Kwangsi, found small seams of wolfram in the Hochi district, 120 miles northwest of Liuchowfu. The ore occurs in hard quartz, and the cost of mining is excessive. The work there is suspended for the time being.

FOREIGN MARKETS FOR CHEMICALS.

ITALY.

[Consul E. Harvey Carroll, Jr., Venice, July 27.]

Chemical products, medicinal substances, gums, and perfumery, which are grouped under Class III of the Italian customs statistics, form ordinarily a substantial portion of the imports at Venice. In 1914 the total value of such imports was 12,000,681 lire (at par of exchange, \$2,316,131); in 1915 it was 8,279,973 lire (\$1,598,035); and in 1916 only 207,676 lire (\$40,081). This great diminution is, of course, due to the fact that the port of Venice has been formally closed since May, 1915, and has been practically closed since the outbreak of the European war in 1914, so that even figures for 1914 do not give normal statistics.

Imports of acetic acid, impure, through Venice in 1914 amounted to 196 metric tons, valued at 70,668 lire (\$13,643). No shipments were made in 1915 or 1916. The import duty is 2 lire (38.6 cents) per quintal (220.46 pounds), according to the official tariff as published in 1915. The duty quoted is general and there is no conventional rate. The Italian tariff classifies as acetic acid also impure pyrolignic acid, whether in crude or liquid form, which has in its composition substances containing spirits empyreumatic or bituminous resulting from the distillation of wood whose total content of acid is less than 50 per cent.

Imports of Pure Acetic Acid.

Of pure acetic acid, imports through Venice in 1914 amounted to 23 metric tons, valued at 20,560 lire (\$3,968). In 1915 there were 3 metric tons, valued at 9,490 lire (\$1,832); and in 1916 there were no imports of the acid through this port. Pure acetic acid is classi-

fied for customs purposes according to its content in weight of anhydrous acetic acid with values in lire per quintal, as follows:

Anhydrous content.	Importation value.	Exportation value.	Import duty.	Surtax.
	Lire.	Lire.	Lire.	Lire.
10 per cent or less.....	70	70	2	15
11 to 30 per cent.....	110	110	6	51
30 to 50 per cent.....		2:0	10	80
50 to 70 per cent.....	3:0		14	126
70 to 10 per cent.....	4:50	4:50	18	162
90 to 98 per cent.....	5:00	5:00	20	180
98 per cent and over.....	7:00	7:00	22	180

The surtax is a manufacturer's tax equivalent to the internal-revenue tax on the corresponding grade of purified acetic acid. The customs classification is not changed by the acid being artificially colored, sweetened, or made aromatic. Acetic acid, anhydrous 98 per cent or more, is said to be crystallized or glacial.

The statistical values for export and import and the duty in lire per quintal on each of certain chemicals are:

Articles.	Statistical value.		General import tariff.
	Importation.	Exportation.	
Acid, carbolic.....	200	200	10
Acid, citric.....	1,000	1,000	50
Borax and borate of sodium.....	125	125	5
Carbonate of soda (soda ash).....	30	20	0.50
Caustic potash.....	250	250	2
Caustic soda, pure.....	400	400	2
Caustic soda, impure.....	110	110	2
Chloride of lime (bleaching powder).....	50	50	1
Chlorates of lime, potash, and soda.....	50	50	4
Chromates and bichromates of potassium and sodium.....	500	500	10
Glycerine.....	400	400	10
Sulphate of copper (blue vitriol).....	155	155	2

[The statistical values quoted are higher than those quoted in the latest table available in the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce—that for 1914. The increase is doubtless the result of war conditions.]

Provisions of Former Treaties.

Germany had the general rate of duty on carbolic acid of 10 lire per quintal, secured by treaty. The war with Germany and Austria put an end to all treaties between those countries and Italy, and consequently neutral nations that enjoyed the conventional rate by a most-favored-nation clause in commercial treaties with Italy must pay the general duty. Where the treaty rate was the same as the general rate, as in this case, there is still a disadvantage for neutral nations with a most-favored-nation clause, as Italy, being free of treaty obligations, may change or advance the general rate.

On chromates and bichromates of potassium and soda Germany had a treaty rate of 4 lire per quintal, now void. On caustic potash Germany had fixed the general rate of 2 lire per quintal by treaty stipulation. On glycerine it had a treaty rate of 4 lire. On carbonate of soda (soda ash) it had stipulated by treaty for the continuance of the general rate of $\frac{1}{2}$ lire.

There were no conventional rates on any of the other articles listed, and no other country save Germany had the stipulated treaty rate on those enumerated, although there were other countries, including the United States, that enjoyed them while the treaty held.

[A dispatch from Florence relating to the Italian market for chemicals was published in COMMERCE REPORTS for July 24, 1917.]

CHINA.

[Consul General Edwin S. Cunningham, Hankow, July 27.]

Prior to the European war Germany furnished many of the heavy chemical products that were used in the Hankow district. The trade was not confined entirely to Germany, but when that source was cut off it was keenly felt by the Chinese merchants. During the last three years these products have been purchased in various parts of the world, and Japan has come more prominently into the market than ever before as a manufacturing, importing, and exporting country for chemicals. The prediction was made by a British firm that Japan would increase its hold on the chemical market of China, as its manufacturers are able to ship goods promptly on Japanese steamers running directly to Hankow. The proximity of Japan to this market places it in a good position. The 1912 and 1916 imports of heavy chemicals at Hankow were:

Articles.	1912		1916	
	Pounds.	Value.	Pounds.	Value.
Acids:				
Boric.....	122,933	\$8,274	149,933	\$21,072
Hydrochloric.....			33,600	1,095
Nitric.....	14,933	963		
Sulphuric.....	223,467	2,640	504,400	13,966
Unclassed.....			4,000	7
Ammonium sulphate and mixtures.....	145,067	15,732		
Bleaching powder.....			353,333	12,946
Borax:				
Crude.....	49,467	2,885	59,333	5,529
Refined.....			19,067	1,690
Calcium chloride.....			175,733	3,783
Glycerine.....	190,267	36,773	278,267	201,760
Naphthalene.....	156,667	5,181	107,600	14,645
Potassium chlorate.....	146,400	10,485	115,333	59,566
Soda:				
Ash.....	3,410,933	41,213	1,553,067	38,992
Caustic.....	34,800	963	206,000	18,402
Nitrate.....			15,200	1,049
Silicate.....	190,400	3,206	403,467	10,160
Sulphur.....	223,467	3,600	349,967	6,520

Crude sulphur can not be imported without a special permit from the Chinese authorities. Refined sulphur can be imported only after the authorities have been convinced that it is not for the manufacture of explosives and is intended only for medicinal purposes.

POTATO CROP IN ONTARIO.

[Consul Felix S. S. Johnson, Kingston, Ontario, Canada, Oct. 27.]

The Ontario Department of Agriculture reports that in all sections of Ontario during the past week farmers have been busy harvesting potatoes, and there are still considerable quantities to be taken up—in some sections 25 per cent and in others even higher. The yield is reported as being about the average, and rot is mentioned only in a few sections and is apparently not assuming any serious proportions. Prices are \$1.50 upwards per bag of 90 pounds.

CHANGES IN SOUTH AFRICA'S INCOME TAX.

[British (Government) Board of Trade Journal, Oct. 11.]

South Africa's income-tax (consolidation) act, 1917, applies to incomes which were received or which accrued during the year ended June 30, 1917. The normal income tax remains on the same scale for individuals, but a tax of 5 per cent is imposed on companies and alterations are made in the abatements. The following section appears to affect foreign companies doing business in South Africa:

Income shall be deemed to have accrued to any person from a source within the Union, where it has been received by or has accrued to or in favor of such person by virtue of—

(a) Any contract made within the Union for the sale of goods, whether such goods have been delivered or are to be delivered in or out of the Union;

(b) Any service rendered or work or labor done in the carrying on in the Union of any business, trade, profession, or occupation, whether the payment for such service or work or labor is made or is to be made by a person resident in or out of the Union, and wherever payment for such services or work or labor is made or is to be made.

Special provision is made for the taxation of agents for shipowners whose principal office is outside the Union and for the assessment of income derived from mining operations.

Dividend and Excess-Profits Taxes.

It is also provided that an amount shall be deemed to be derived from a source within the Union "if it is received by or accrues to, or in favor of, any person ordinarily resident or carrying on business within the Union, and is received or accrues from any country outside the Union where, owing to the fact that such person is not domiciled nor ordinarily resident therein, the amount is not chargeable with income tax."

The supertax will continue to be levied as hitherto.

A dividend tax is levied (with certain abatements) on all dividends distributed by companies after July 1, 1916, at the following rates:

(a) In respect of companies whose principal business is gold mining, $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent, with an additional $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent during the war.

(b) In respect of companies whose principal business is diamond mining, $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

(c) In respect of all other companies, 5 per cent.

In addition to these taxes, excess-profits duty is levied from July 1, 1917, until six months after the end of the war, at the rate of 25 per cent on excess profits received during the year ended June 30, 1917, and during any subsequent period for which that duty is chargeable.

OFFICES OF THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE.**DISTRICT OFFICES.**

NEW YORK: 734 Customhouse.
BOSTON: 1801 Customhouse.
CHICAGO: 504 Federal Building.
ST. LOUIS: 402 Third National Bank Building.
NEW ORLEANS: 1020 Hibernia Bank Building.
SAN FRANCISCO: 307 Customhouse.
SEATTLE: 848 Henry Building.

COOPERATIVE OFFICES.

CLEVELAND: Chamber of Commerce.
CINCINNATI: Chamber of Commerce.
CINCINNATI: General Freight Agent, Southern Railway, 96 Ingalls Building.
LOS ANGELES: Chamber of Commerce.
PHILADELPHIA: Chamber of Commerce.
CHATTANOOGA: South American Agent, Southern Railway System.
PORTLAND, OREG.: Chamber of Commerce.
DAYTON: Greater Dayton Association.

STEEL MANUFACTURE IN THE TRANSVAAL.

[Consul John P. Bray, Johannesburg, South Africa, Aug. 29.]

The Johannesburg Star of yesterday contained a long write up of the Vereeniging Steel Works, situated about 40 miles from the city, in which the activities of the steel company were characterized as representing a new era in South Africa's industrial life. The article reads, in part:

The huge stacks of waste and scrap material, the large iron sheds, the rows of simply built offices, and the continuous roar of machinery must at once impress every visitor to the Vereeniging Steel Works. The number of men employed in the works—exclusive of those in the offices—is 230, the majority being white men with families. And what will appeal even more to the public is that most of those men were born in this country, started the work without knowing anything about it, and are to-day making their 15s. to 30s. per day. The policy followed by Mr. Isaac Lewis and Mr. Samuel Marks has been a far-seeing one; they have trained youngsters to become expert workers, and thus they have opened new fields of employment, and, generally speaking, a new vista for the boys. The Vereeniging Steel Works, by employing those youngsters, have performed one of the greatest services imaginable to South Africa; they have done work that is done and otherwise would have had to be done by trades schools, and at the same time they have enabled the boys to make an honest living.

Character of Products.

At present the mill can make only 16, 20, 25, and 30 pound rails, "rounds" from five-eighths of an inch up to 3 inches, and "squares" of similar thickness, but enlargements and improvements of many kinds are under consideration, and there is no reason at all why we should not soon produce our own heavy rails for the heaviest railway traffic—why all our steelwork should not be done locally.

At present the Vereeniging Steel Works have a contract with the railways under which they purchase all the railway waste and scrap material. This contract is a useful one for both parties, as through it the railways get rid of large quantities of useless articles which might otherwise lumber up the yards, and the steel works in their turn secure the raw material from which they manufacture the steel, and without which they might be seriously handicapped.

It is anticipated that the steel works at Vereeniging will rapidly expand and will be able to treat the ore from the Pretoria iron fields in the near future.

DISPLAY OF SAMPLES AT CONSULATES.

[Consul General J. I. Brittain, Sydney, Australia, Sept. 11.]

Arrangements are being made for a general display of Dutch East Indies products in rooms adjoining the Netherlands consulate in Sydney. The display will consist of a full line of samples showing what the islands produce in both raw materials and manufactured articles and will be under the supervision of the consul. The object is to increase the sale of Dutch East Indies products in Australia, the general imports at present being sago, tapioca, sugar, sirups, coffee, tea, kerosene, gasoline, and kapok, the last named being used in Australia for filling pillows and cushions instead of feathers. There is a direct line of steamers between Java and Australian ports, carrying passengers and cargo.

A line of Japanese products is also being shown in Sydney. This line consists chiefly of dry goods, known here as "soft goods."

Consul General George Horton reports that in the September quarter one New York exporter sold \$30,000 worth of cotton and woolen goods to a commission agent in Saloniki, Greece, and about \$10,000 worth of the same lines to two other firms in that city.

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the Bureau and its district and cooperative offices. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and state opportunity number. The Bureau does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases. Symbols: * Reported by American consular officers; † Reported by commercial attachés and commercial agents; ‡ Direct inquiries received by the Bureau.

In considering the following "opportunities" special regard should be had to the laws and regulations governing export licenses and trading with the enemy.

Boots and shoes.....	25780	Leather and leather goods.....	25780
Braces.....	25780	Machinery.....	25781
Brushes, paint.....	25778	Metals.....	25781
Building material and locksmithing.....	25774	Novelties.....	25780
Chemicals.....	25781	Paints, varnishes, and enamels.....	25778
Clothing and wearing apparel.....	25779	Paper goods.....	25779
Colors and coloring materials.....	25778	Safes and safety devices.....	25773
Cotton and woolen goods.....	25779, 25780	Suiting.....	25775
Electric motors.....	25781	Surgical instruments and dressing.....	25776
Foodstuffs.....	25777	Tools.....	25780
Glue.....	25778	Twine.....	25779
Hardware.....	25779	Underwear.....	25780
Hosiery.....	25779	Wines.....	25777

25773.*—A company in Italy desires to secure an agency for the sale of safes, safe deposits, fireproof treasury rooms, and safety locks. Correspondence may be in English. References.

25774.†—An agency is desired by a firm in France for the sale of building material, especially standardized doors and windows of the French model; locksmithing; and paints. Sales will be made against cash. Correspondence should be in French. References.

25775.*—A firm in French West Indies wishes to purchase 250 yards of material for men's formal suits, 55 inches wide, all wool, and of the same weight and quality, if not better, than samples which may be examined at the Bureau or its district offices. (Refer to file No. 93064.) Samples should be submitted. Quotations should be made f. o. b. New York. The usual term of credit is 60 days and it is customary to make payment in francs. Correspondence should be in French. Reference.

25776.*—A firm in Portugal desires to purchase surgical instruments, dressing, etc. It also wishes to entertain an agency proposition for the sale of same. Payment will be made against documents or on terms of shipper. Correspondence should be in French or Spanish. References.

25777.‡—A man in Martinique wishes to be placed in communication with American manufacturers and exporters of wines, foodstuffs, etc., who are seeking a market for their goods in the West Indies. Correspondence should be in French.

25778.*—An agency is desired by a commission agent in Spain for the sale of paint brushes, paints, varnishes, colors, coloring materials, glue, and enamels. Correspondence should be in Spanish. References.

25779.‡—A man in Colombia wishes to be put in touch with American manufacturers and exporters of hardware, cotton goods of all kinds, ready-made clothing, stockings, shirts, wearing apparel for men and women, paper goods, and twine. He states that he will be glad to visit the United States to deal with firms interested in the sale of these goods. Correspondence should be in Spanish.

25780.*—A member of a firm in Switzerland desires to secure the exclusive agency for the sale of waterproofs, boots and shoes, braces, ladies' underwear, brassiers, patented novelties of all kinds, cotton and wool cloths, tools, and leather and leather goods, such as traveling bags, etc. Payment will be made in American currency or francs. Correspondence may be in English.

25781.‡—A company in Japan who has recently opened a branch office in the United States desires to secure agencies for the sale of machinery, metals, chemicals, electrical motors, etc. Business will be done on a commission basis, or direct purchases will be made. References.

PRINCETON, N. J.

COMMERCE REPORTS



DAILY CONSULAR AND TRADE REPORTS
ISSUED DAILY BY THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE



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BRITISH PRICES FOR LINSEED CAKE AND OFFALS.

[Cablegram from American consul general, London, dated Nov. 5.]

Food Controller reduces maximum prices for linseed cake to £19 per ton as compared with present market price of £22 to £23. Fine offals fixed at £14 per ton, while present market price in some districts is £17.

TAMPICO OIL SHIPMENTS FOR SEPTEMBER.

[Consul Claude I. Dawson, Tampico, Mexico, Oct. 23.]

Declared exports of crude oil and petroleum products from the Tampico district to the United States in September amounted to 3,066,935 barrels. The movement from Tampico was 2,622,879 barrels, and from Tuxpam 444,056 barrels.

Shipments to points other than the United States were reported as 796,596 barrels. The gross shipments, therefore, reached 3,863,531 barrels.

Tampico shipments included refined products as follows: Distillate, 112,000 barrels; reduced, 745,885 barrels.

As heretofore, Tuxpam shipments included only crude oil, the topping plants at that port not being ready for operation.

Distribution of oil shipments by destination during September follows:

Destination.	From Tampico.	From Tuxpam.	Destination.	From Tampico.	From Tuxpam.
	<i>Barrels.</i>	<i>Barrels.</i>		<i>Barrels.</i>	<i>Barrels.</i>
United States.....	2,622,879	444,056	Chile.....	174,575	116,141
Argentina.....		50,715	Guatemala.....	26,041	
United Kingdom.....	73,459		Mexico.....		284,240
Canada.....		48,447	Total.....	2,919,932	943,599
Uruguay.....	22,978				

EXPORTATION OF CONDENSED MILK.

The War Trade Board, at the request of the United States Food Administration, announces the following additional regulation to govern the exportation of condensed milk:

No licenses shall be granted for the export of condensed, canned, powdered, or other forms of preserved milk, unless there shall have been filed with the Bureau of Exports a certificate of the manufacturer stating that such milk has been sold directly to the exporter and for export purposes, or unless compliance shall be had with such other regulations as may be determined by the Food Administration.

In order to secure a license the exporting concern must procure from the manufacturer and file with the War Trade Board a certificate setting forth that the milk was sold direct to the exporter and for export purposes, and that the raw milk from which the finished product was made was purchased at prices no higher than the prices paid by other buyers in the territory in which the milk manufacturer's plant is situated.

The object of the certificate from the manufacturer is to discourage the operations of speculators who have been purchasing from the retail stores the brands of milk which the manufacturer has set apart for distribution to the American public. The operations of these speculators has created a false condition of the market, and the United States Food Administration has felt that if the exportation of canned milk could be controlled by the manufacturer the true export demand and the real demand for home consumption could be accurately determined, and a distribution made of such surplus to our allies for civilian as well as military purposes.

A large number of applications for license to export condensed milk have been held for consideration by the Bureau of Exports, and these will now be returned to the applicants with the request to re-enter the applications when certificates have been obtained from the manufacturers of the brands sought to be exported.

RECORD PRICES FOR SHORT HORNS IN SCOTLAND.

[Vice Consul E. R. Pottle, Dundee, Oct. 16.]

The annual sale of short-horn cattle, which has recently been concluded in this district, has proved interesting to cattle breeders all over the world on account of the record prices that were paid for pure-bred stock.

The total number auctioned at the sale was 473, which realized \$353,921, and it is contended that no similar sales of the "old white" and "roan" have ever approached the individual figures and averages obtainable.

The highest price paid was for a Duthrie bull, which brought the record price of \$13,796. A female of the Clipper breed brought \$7,664, and seven other heifers of this breed were sold for an average of \$3,438 each.

The Norwegian press reports that A/S Det Skandinaviske Skog & Traelast Kompagni has been incorporated in Chrisitanian with capital stock of \$670,000. They will deal in lumber and sawmill and forest products.

CAUTION IN MAKING SHIPMENTS TO VENEZUELA.

[Consul Emil Sauer, Maracaibo; supplementing report in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for Aug. 31, 1917.]

American exporters who send traveling salesmen here are all informed of the fact that ordinary shipping documents are not required in Venezuela to clear merchandise from the customhouse. Further, the Banco de Venezuela has so informed all its clients in the United States. But it appears that a few disreputable persons and firms in Venezuela still succeed in obtaining goods from the United States without paying for them, the American exporters believing the transactions safe because they send the documents to a bank here with instructions not to surrender them until draft is paid.

To warn American exporters and thus guard against future loss, the Maracaibo consulate has prepared for distribution a circular that reads:

Possession of the shipping documents is not required in clearing merchandise from customhouses in Venezuela, and only the consignee or his duly authorized agent can clear merchandise from the customhouse. The placing of shipping documents in the hands of a bank here therefore does not give the bank control over the cargo covered by said documents unless the merchandise is consigned to the bank; but banks here do not care to have merchandise consigned to them, because of the difficulty of disposing of the goods without loss to the exporter in case they remain unclaimed by the original purchaser. Caution should therefore be exercised in shipping goods consigned to unknown individuals and firms, to be paid for against documents in the port of arrival in Venezuela.

Information regarding financial responsibility and commercial standing of houses in this consular district can be secured from any American bank specializing in foreign business from reporting agencies, such as Dun and Bradstreet, and from the following banks in Maracaibo: Royal Bank of Canada (Branch), Banco de Venezuela, El Banco Comercial, and El Banco de Maracaibo.

PRICES FOR CHROME-TANNED GOATSKINS IN ITALY.

[Consul General David F. Wilber, Genoa, Oct. 8.]

An Italian decree which was published September 19, 1917, established maximum prices to be asked for chrome-tanned goatskins, derived from raw skins. Prices of goats black chrome-tanned, polished, according to the proportion of choice in lot, are: About 20 per cent, first choice, 2.35 lire per English square foot; about 30 per cent, second choice, 2.05 lire; about 30 per cent, third choice, 1.85 lire; about 10 per cent, poor, 1.10 lire; about 10 per cent, refuse, 0.65 lira. The prices are understood to be for goods taken at the establishments, packing not included, payment in net cash. For time payments, interest will be charged.

Every skin must bear printed upon the inner surface, in a legible and indelible manner, the name of the manufacturer, the choice, the duty, and the words "calzatura nazionale" (national boots and shoes).

The skins for which prices have been established by the decree are held at the disposal of the Ministry for Industry, Commerce and Labor, and will be exclusively assigned to shoe factories for the manufacture of national boots and shoes.

[A decree providing for the disposal of goatskins in Italy was mentioned in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for Oct. 31, 1917.]

BRITISH COMMISSION SUGGESTS MOTION-PICTURE REFORMS.

[Consul E. Haldeman Dennison, Birmingham, Oct. 11.]

Motion pictures in the United Kingdom continue to increase in popularity, so that at present a large proportion of the population depends upon this form of amusement for regular recreation. According to the latest statistics there are 4,500 picture houses in the British Isles, with an annual attendance of 1,075,000,000. The average for the entire population is a visit to a picture show once every two weeks.

Studies Complaints Regarding Exhibitions.

A commission was appointed by the National Council of Public Morals about a year ago to inquire into the physical, social, moral, and educational influence of the films, with special reference to the young. The president of the commission was the Bishop of Birmingham, and he had as colleagues several clergymen, educators, representatives of the Incorporated Society of Authors, Playwrights, and Composers, and various experts. The commission received evidence from all parts of the country, and the results of its investigations have just been published. It devoted careful attention to the nature and extent of the complaints that had been made against picture exhibitions.

It was decided that improvements in picture houses could and should be made. Better lighting and closer supervision are recommended. While recognizing the impossibility that all shows should be determined by exclusive regard for children, the commissioners feel that care must be taken to protect them from what would be morally injurious to them. They say that a much stricter censorship should be exercised, and urge that this should include not only films, but also the posters advertising the films. Some connection of the motion pictures with imitative juvenile crime was found to exist, but only to a limited extent. It is suggested that apart from "sex" and "crime" films, an injurious effect on young minds is produced by excessive sensationalism and frightfulness.

Films for Young Lack Commercial Basis.

Greater provision is urged for special exhibitions for the young, and the educational authorities and societies that are interested in the welfare of youth are invited to cooperate. Films for the young, the trade declares, are "not a commercial proposition," so that if the need is to be met it must be through the agency of philanthropic effort or by public authority. As a set-off against the evil for which the pictures may be responsible is placed the benefit to be derived from keeping the young off the streets, and their elders from the public houses. The commissioners further consider the decrease of street gangs to have resulted in no small measure from the popularity of the pictures, and they conclude their findings on the moral and social aspects by declaring that the abolition of the picture house, as advocated by some, is impossible even if it were desirable, and in their judgment it is not desirable. On the other hand they are strongly of the opinion that not only is improvement practical, but also of great national importance.

Although they refer in high terms to the existing censorship, they are of the opinion that for the protection of the motion picture, as

well as for the insuring of its continued suitability to the nation, it should have the support and official countenance of the State, and therefore advocate a State censorship.

[Articles on motion pictures in the United Kingdom were published in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for Apr. 13 and Apr. 19, 1917.]

CONDITIONS IN HUDDERSFIELD WOOLEN MARKET.

[Consul Franklin D. Hale, Huddersfield, England, Sept. 27.]

According to the latest published report on the conditions in the Huddersfield woolen market the strong demand for khaki cloths which has been such a feature still continues. In particular there are urgent orders for overcoatings and blankets. Standard khaki cloths for officers' uniforms are now being produced under the scheme of Government control, and it is expected that they will be put on the market in two or three months. These are to be sold at fixed prices. Standard rates have also been decided upon for tailors, so that in a short time those officers who desire them will be able to procure uniforms at fairer prices than have prevailed in some quarters hitherto. The proportion of machinery on army contracts of all sorts remains practically the same—about three-quarters of the output. The remaining quarter is not sufficient to meet the civilian demand. This applies more to the Scotch trade than to that of the West Riding, in consequence of the preference displayed by the Government for woolen yarns.

The report that is quoted states that the position of standard cloths for civilian wear stands exactly where it did, and that samples are in the hands of the officials. A good trade is still being done with South America. The Scandinavian markets are also open to receive goods, but the necessity for obtaining licenses is, of course, a handicap to those who are engaged in the foreign trade.

Textile-Research Work.

The committee for textile research work in the West Riding reports that in the various technical colleges in the district good results already have been obtained, and that the indications are the work is to become of a national character in the near future.

Already the association movement includes the textile industries of Scotland, the West of England, the West Riding, the Midland counties, Ireland, and Wales, so that soon there will be unified effort in one scheme of national textile-research work for the whole of the United Kingdom. Such action will open up great possibilities for the trade. Commercial men welcome the scheme, recognizing that unless science is fully and technically applied to industry, there will be little hope for development and progress after the war.

A similar movement is also reported in the cotton trade. Fifty Scottish firms recently joined the association at a meeting in Edinburgh. Technical schools will cooperate in the scheme and make it as far as possible educational. There is a scarcity of trained research workers in the country and this plan is intended to augment the number.

Consul General George E. Anderson requests that catalogues of laboratory equipment, particularly balance scales, be sent to the American consulate general at Hongkong at once.

USED-NEWSPAPER TRADE AT HONGKONG.

[Consul General George E. Anderson, Hongkong, British China, Sept. 12.]

Over-issue and old newspapers are exported from the United States to Hongkong, and to other parts of the Far East through Hongkong, in large quantities; but recent practices of a few firms in the United States engaged in the trade have resulted in considerable loss to Hongkong importers, and there is danger at the present time that this trade will be destroyed. One Hongkong house alone reports that so far this year it has imported such paper to the value of over \$225,000 gold.

These papers are imported for wrapping purposes, and to meet the needs of the market it is necessary that they be whole and of standard-to-large size. In some recent consignments, however, bales have been found to contain old magazines and even old clothing, shoes, and other waste. A shipment to Saigon through Hongkong and for account of a Hongkong firm was found to be so badly mixed with all sorts of waste that the Chinese concerns for which the paper had been imported refused to accept the shipment even after allowance.

In some cases the material mixed with the paper would have as much value for paper stock as the over-issue newspapers, but it is not wanted and does not meet the purpose for which the newspapers are purchased. The Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce now has on hand an arbitration of claims growing out of the shipment of paper not up to contract, and Hongkong importers at present are accepting deliveries only after examination. There is a steady demand for these over-issue and old papers throughout the Far East, which can be maintained as a profitable trade (at least so long as the price of paper remains where it now is) provided exporters will realize the special purpose for which the paper is bought and ship only such stock as will probably fulfill requirements.

COAL CARRIED BY ARTIFICIAL OHIO RIVER FLOODS.

By means of an artificial rise, started on October 18, 1917, at Dam No. 7, Ohio River, and augmented by water from the Muskingum, Kanawha, and Big Sandy Rivers, more than 80,000 tons of coal from the Kanawha River were delivered to Cincinnati and other river cities. Every available towboat and barge was used in this movement, even the small harbor boat of one of the coal companies being utilized to bring down 4 coal boats, and a show-boat pusher was chartered to bring down 10 barges; 14 tows of more than 200 craft were in the movement.

Previous instances of the utilization of artificial floods to transport coal cargoes on the Ohio River were mentioned in **COMMERCE REPORTS** for August 29, 1917. Last August, during a period of extremely low water, a fleet of barges, which carried 13,000 tons of coal, was successfully moved by this means. About a year ago two similar experiments were carried out successfully at a time when there was a shortage of coal in Cincinnati.

DUNDEE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

[Vice Consul E. R. Pottle, Dundee, Scotland, Oct. 11.]

The Dundee Chamber of Commerce was organized in the year 1835 and incorporated by Royal Charter February 16, 1874. The business offices of the secretary are located at No. 3 Bank Street, Dundee, but the reading room is in the Royal Exchange, Panmure Street, Dundee, where the meetings of the chamber are also held. The fiscal year for the chamber ends on March 29, on which date the annual report of the directors is made. The report for the year ending March 29, 1917, shows a total income of \$17,205, with expenditures of \$15,565, leaving a balance carried forward of \$1,640.

There appears to be no definite proposal as to the things the chamber desires to accomplish, but, in general, it aims to watch over, encourage, and promote the commerce and manufactures of the town. All bills brought before Parliament and all changes in foreign tariffs are taken cognizance of by the chamber, and its intervention and advice have, in many instances, proved useful and effective. Through its secretary the chamber keeps in constant communication with the heads of Government departments, particularly with the Board of Trade in reference to matters affecting the commercial interests of Dundee.

While the Dundee chamber has not accomplished any single act of great importance during the past year, committees appointed to investigate and report on various conditions have accomplished many reforms, which, collectively, have been of great benefit to the community. Among the more important committees which are at present making investigations for the purpose of recommendations can be mentioned the committee on the employment of discharged sailors and soldiers after the war, and a committee to approach the Home and Indian Governments in an effort to have an export duty placed on jute.

TO GIVE HEARING ON PROPOSAL TO LIMIT SALMON FISHING.

A hearing to determine the advisability of placing restrictions upon fishing operations in Copper River and its delta, and in all tributary waters in Alaska, will be held at the Seattle (Wash.) office of the United States Bureau of Fisheries, 1217 L. C. Smith Building in that city, on December 14, 1917, at 10 a. m. All interested persons will be heard. It has been recommended that the Secretary of Commerce limit commercial fishing for salmon, or other commercial fishing in the prosecution of which salmon are taken or injured in those waters. The hearing was ordered by Commissioner of Fisheries H. M. Smith, with the approval of Secretary Redfield.

BIDS FOR LIGHT AND POWER IN SANTO DOMINGO.

Printed copies of the specifications upon which are to be based the bids for furnishing electric light and power for public and private use in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, have been forwarded by Consul Clement S. Edwards. They may be inspected at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district offices. Refer to file No. 94248. The specifications are in the Spanish language.

THE COCONUT INDUSTRY IN BRAZIL.

[Consul A. T. Haeberle, Pernambuco, Aug. 5.]

As the Pernambuco consulate has made special efforts to increase the exportation of agricultural products and raw material from this district, it is pleased to transmit the following data relative to the Brazilian coconut industry—an industry that could be greatly developed by proper organization. The consulate is indebted to Mr. A. J. Brooks, an American engineer, for the information. Mr. Brooks came to Brazil to investigate the coconut industry and has traveled all through this district to make a personal study of conditions. He can be addressed in care of the Pernambuco consulate by firms desirous of receiving further details:

The coconut zone of Brazil fringes the coast from Parahyba on the north to Bahia on the south. This zone is spotted with coconut groves varying in size from a few hundred trees to 40,000. The total number of bearing trees approximates 1,250,000. The annual yield per tree is 40, or a total annual production of 50,000,000 nuts. The average size of the nuts compares well with the products of other tropical countries, 5,000 nuts being required per ton of copra.

There are three ports from which to ship coconuts—Cabedello, Recife (Pernambuco), and Maceió. About three-fourths of the coconut trees are concentrated around Cabedello and Maceió.

The price paid on the plantation for nuts varies with their size and their distance from the cities. The largest nuts command \$35 per thousand, while the smaller ones are sold for \$25 per thousand. The average selling price on the city market is \$42.50 per thousand.

Copra Production—Possibilities of the Industry.

No attempt beyond the experimental stage has been made to produce copra. The reason for this is the result of local conditions, namely, the limited number of available coconuts and the native's fondness for the nut as a table delicacy. With copra selling in New York at \$160 a ton and freight averaging \$10 a ton, the plantation owner profits 1 cent more on every coconut he sells on the local market than if he had turned that coconut into copra. This statement does not mean that copra can not be produced here at a profit. On the contrary, there is excellent opportunity for capital to operate a coconut grove and sell copra at a large margin of profit if a working organization were effected, if the other products of the tree were utilized, and if the available space were cultivated with catch crops.

The possibilities of the coconut industry in Brazil are tremendous. The annual yield of the trees at present is 40 nuts per tree, despite the fact that many of the trees are robbed of their fruit before the meat begins to form, to be sold upon the local market for their milk. This practice has appreciably lowered the vitality of the trees. Seed selection has been almost entirely neglected, and fertilization is a science never practiced.

Improper spacing is another existing evil which contributes to the retarding forces so prevalent in the Brazilian coconut groves. This is strikingly depicted in the case of two adjoining groves of the same age—one planted with 75 trees to the acre and the other with 130 trees. The annual yield of the former is four times that of the latter. Disease and pests are almost unknown. Labor is cheap.

The possibilities of disposing of the by-products are excellent. The fiber would find a waiting market in the form of cord or rope because of the absence of a cord factory here; the husk would sell readily for fuel; the milk is always sought by the native for his familiar breakfast food, the "cuscoos"; and the palm leaves are eagerly bought by the natives for building purposes.

Estimate of Cost of Developing a Plantation.

An estimate of the cost of developing 2,000 acres of coconut land in Brazil would read about as follows: Based on an average of 75 trees per acre, the total number of trees on the plantation would be 150,000; average yield of nuts per tree, 75; total annual yield of nuts,

11,250,000; copra capacity in tons per month, 175. The expenditures until the plantation reached full bearing would approximate:

First year.—Rent, \$500; seed (\$28 per 1,000 nuts), \$4,200; buildings, \$500; tools, \$2,000; clearing, planting, etc. (80 men at 25 cents a day), \$7,000; salaries, \$5,000; contingencies, \$2,000; total, \$21,200.

Second, third, fourth, and fifth years.—General maintenance, including rent, salaries, and catch-crop cultivation, \$8,300 per year, or \$33,200 in all.

Sixth year (first yield).—Plant for copra manufacture, \$6,000; picking and collecting, \$15,000; husking, \$15,000; cost of making copra, \$30,000; freight, Pernambuco to New York (50 per cent in excess of normal), \$13,500; general maintenance, \$8,300; contingencies, \$4,000; total, \$91,800.

Seventh year (first full yield).—Picking and collecting, \$20,000; husking, \$20,000; cost of making copra, \$60,000; freight, Pernambuco to New York, \$27,000; general maintenance, \$10,000; contingencies, \$4,000; total, \$141,000.

The credit side of the account would show the following entries:

First year.—Returns from catch crops, average \$2 per acre, \$4,000.

Second, third, fourth, and fifth years.—Returns from catch crops, average \$5 per acre, \$10,000 a year, or a total of \$40,000.

Sixth year (first yield).—Based on an average yield of 40 nuts per tree, the total would be 6,000,000 nuts, which would produce 1,000 tons of copra and 500 tons of coconut fiber or oil, and would be worth: Copra, 1,000 tons at \$125 a ton, \$125,000; fiber, 500 tons at \$40 a ton, \$20,000; catch crops, \$10,000; Government aid, \$10,000; total, \$165,000.

Seventh year (first full yield).—Copra, 2,000 tons at \$125 a ton, \$250,000; fiber, 1,000 tons at \$40 a ton, \$40,000; Government aid, \$10,000; total, \$300,000.

At the end of the seventh year the plantation account would stand thus:

Year.	Expenditures.	Revenues.	Excess expenditure.	Excess revenues.
First.....	\$21,200	\$4,000	\$17,200	.....
Second.....	8,300	10,000	.....	\$1,700
Third.....	8,300	10,000	.....	1,700
Fourth.....	8,300	10,000	.....	1,700
Fifth.....	8,300	10,000	.....	1,700
Sixth (first yield).....	91,800	165,000	.....	73,200
Seventh (first full yield).....	141,000	300,000	.....	159,000
Total.....	287,200	509,000	17,200	239,000

This gives a net return for seven years of \$221,800, or an average of \$31,685 a year. On a capital of \$30,000 this would mean an average annual return of 105 per cent.

Possible Government Aid.

The \$10,000 yearly Government revenue referred to above is expected State aid to be paid under a bounty provision set forth in the South American Year Book for 1915, page 243, which reads:

Cultivation of coconut palm (bounties).—The Brazilian Ministry of Agriculture has entered into a contract with Messrs. Octaviano Machado and Andre Christophe with a view to encouraging the systematic cultivation of coconut palms and the exportation of copra. Certain bounties are to be granted to the above-mentioned firm upon the following conditions: A report is to be presented to the Ministry before the end of the year giving full details as to the actual area under palm cultivation, the variety of palm planted, and the methods of cultivation adopted. A copra plant is to be established within two years to deal with the product of at least 3,000 hectares (7,400 acres) of coconut plantations. The Ministry of Agriculture will endeavor to obtain duty-free admission of all machinery necessary for the undertaking, and also the granting of a premium, for five years, of 30 reis per kilo (about one-half cent per pound) of copra exported, and 60 reis per kilo (about 1 cent per pound) of coconut oil exported, up to a maximum amount of \$10,000 per annum. Similar terms may be extended to any other applicant at the discretion of the Government.

FOREIGN TARIFFS.

BRAZIL.

[Consul General A. L. M. Gottschalk, Rio de Janeiro, Sept. 5 and Sept. 11.]

Shipping Document Requirements.

The numerous changes in the Brazilian customs requirements during the past few months make it desirable to call to the attention of exporters some of the most important features in connection with the preparation of shipping documents and the clearance of imports. Four copies of the consular invoice, instead of three, must now be presented for consular certification, the fee for which has been increased from 3 milreis to 4 milreis gold, equivalent to \$2.18. Consular invoices are not required, however, for samples without commercial value, parcel-post packages, packages of a value not exceeding \$48.65 when shipped on a parcel receipt, or passengers' baggage other than merchandise for sale. In case the consular invoice can not be presented, it is necessary to give a bond known as a "termo de responsabilidade" to guarantee the presentation of the invoice within a period of 90 days, which is now extended to 135 days in special cases. Unless the invoice has been certified before the date of the arrival of the vessel carrying the goods at the first Brazilian port a fine will be imposed.

It is a matter of great importance that the goods be accurately described for the purpose of customs clearance, as otherwise it may necessitate a special examination, the cost of which may amount to as much as 10 per cent of the value of the goods. Where different classes of goods or containers are listed on the same invoice each should appear as a separate item, and care should be taken that packages comprising the shipment are numbered consecutively, or at least that there is no duplication of marks or numbers. A separate consular invoice is required for each mark, even when belonging to the same consignment.

The privilege of temporary free admission for travelers' samples is conditioned upon the presentation not only of a duly certified consular invoice but also of a "nota," or detailed commercial invoice of the samples, signed by a member of the exporting firm, and also certified by a Brazilian consular officer at the port of shipment. Unless both of these documents are presented full duty is charged upon the samples.

Clearance of Mixed Packages and Passengers' Baggage.

The customs regulations do not permit of the breaking of bulk packages in clearing. Where several packages intended for different customers are forwarded to a distributing agent, therefore, goods for different consignees should not be placed in the same case, as that will entail the payment of duty upon all of the goods before clearance can be effected. In case the shipment consists of various separate parcels, however, the goods may be cleared in small lots provided individual packages are not broken.

An order of August 30, 1917, contains certain rules regarding the clearance of passengers' baggage through the Brazilian customs which should be observed by persons visiting that country. Packages containing commercial merchandise are not subject to clearance as

"baggage," regardless of the nature of the container, but must be deposited in the regular customs warehouses and cleared in the same manner as ordinary commercial shipments. Furthermore, for such articles a consular invoice will be required, and unless it is presented a "termo de responsabilidade" must be given to guarantee its production within three months. The exemption from import duties for personal effects is held not to extend to unused clothing and utensils, even if for the personal use of the passenger.

[More complete information on the above subjects has been published in the Tariff Series and Foreign Tariff Notes issued by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce. The complete consular invoice requirements are set out in Tariff Series No. 24 (Consular Regulations of Foreign Countries—Canada and Latin America), while the procedure to be followed in customs clearance is described in Tariff Series No. 34 (Tariff Systems of South American Countries), pages 129–141. These publications are for sale by the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, and at the District offices of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, the prices being 10 cents and 25 cents, respectively. Recent modifications in the Brazilian shipping document requirements are described in Foreign Tariff Notes, No. 21, pages 166–168, and No. 24, pages 111–113.]

CHILE.

[Consul General L. J. Kenna, Valparaiso, Sept. 25.]

Increase in Stamp Taxes.

A Chilean law, promulgated September 21, 1917, provides for an increase of 100 per cent in the amount of stamp taxes and stamped paper required under the existing laws for the period from October 1, 1917, to December 31, 1918. The measure applies to the stamp taxes on various documents, including drafts, insurance policies, and shipping documents, and on playing cards, cigars, cigarettes, and other articles.

URUGUAY.

[Consul William Dawson, Montevideo, Aug. 1 and Sept. 7.]

Analysis of Chemicals and Drugs.

A decree of the Uruguayan Government issued on July 16, 1917, places chemicals and pharmaceutical products temporarily on the list of articles subject to chemical analysis before clearance. Under the terms of this decree 2 pesos (\$2.07) will be charged for the analysis of each product imported, regardless of the quantity, and all products that are found to be below the standards of purity prescribed in the official pharmacopœia (the French Codex) will be rejected and must be reexported within 30 days.

Several difficulties have already arisen in connection with the enforcement of this decree. There are not sufficient facilities for the prompt analysis of the numerous chemical and pharmaceutical products imported, and even at the present time, when imports of such products are small, a delay of from 1 to 5 days results.

The uniform fee of 2 pesos is disproportionately high in the case of small shipments and may exceed the value of the shipment, especially where there are a considerable number of different products of relatively low value. In addition, no distinction is made between products already approved and those imported for the first time. While the object of the decree was to prevent the importation and sale of adulterated drugs, it has been pointed out that adulteration is most

likely to be effected after the products have been imported and are beyond the control of the customs.

So far the law has been strictly enforced, but it does not appear that any products have been rejected. An attempt is being made to secure a change in the regulations, and the impression seems to be general that ultimately a special tax will be imposed on chemicals and drugs in place of the analysis and fee and that a more strict supervision of the operations of wholesale and retail druggists will be inaugurated.

PACKING SUGGESTIONS FROM AUSTRALIA.

[Consul General J. I. Brittain, Sydney, New South Wales, Sept. 26.]

In speaking of strapping cases of merchandise for export, the Sydney Chamber of Commerce says in some instances the cases are bound with wire one way only, the wire running with the boards, securing the one board and leaving the other unprotected. It is suggested that cases be bound both ways—that is to say, at right angles to the line of the boards and another band of wire running with the boards—thus insuring a better safeguard against pillaging. The question of pillaging at the Sydney wharves is a very serious one. It is alleged that the annual loss from this cause at the wharves and in transit amounts to \$500,000.

Owing to the constant advance in freight rates, many importers here have called attention to the necessity of conserving all space in packing various kinds of merchandise. In certain instances it is claimed that a saving of 10 to 30 per cent in space can be effected through closer packing. This applies not only to packing merchandise in cases too large for the contents but equally as well to the paste-board boxes containing merchandise. It is said there is frequently 25 per cent waste space in these boxes. When one considers that the transportation of a ton of freight costs \$50 it can be readily seen that the purchaser does not desire to pay for waste space, thus adding to the actual cost of freight on his consignment.

It has also been suggested that the various shippers of motor cars and machinery should standardize their packing cases wherever standardization is possible, thus saving not only tonnage but lumber in constructing the cases.

CUSTOMS TARIFF OF CHILE.

A report on the customs tariff of Chile has been completed by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce and is now ready for distribution. The present Chilean tariff went into effect in May, 1916, and differs from the old tariff chiefly in form. In the present tariff the rates, with a single exception, are specific, whereas the tariff of 1897 provided for ad valorem rates of duty, although the new rates represent in most cases the equivalent of the rates collected under the old law.

The report discusses the principal changes and contains a translation of the entire schedule, with a comprehensive index. It is entitled "Customs Tariff of Chile," Tariff Series No. 36, and is sold at the nominal price of 15 cents by the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C., and by the district and cooperative offices of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

OUTPUT OF INDIA'S COTTON MILLS.

Figures compiled by the Indian Department of Statistics from accounts rendered by mill owners and covering the output of cotton spinning and weaving mills in British India and the Native States for the three months, April-June, 1917, show an increase of 0.24 per cent in the amount of yarn spun as compared with the corresponding months of 1916 (this in contrast to a decline of 4.6 per cent in April-June, 1916, as compared with 1915); and a gain of 8.2 per cent in the quantity of woven goods produced (against an increase of 15.6 per cent in April-June, 1916, as compared with 1915). In pounds the output for these three months in each of the last five years was:

Yarn and woven goods.	1913	1914	1915	1916	1917
	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>
Yarn spun.....	168,752,344	174,118,980	180,621,741	172,314,782	172,735,373
Woven goods manufactured.....	66,479,790	69,601,854	82,080,492	94,868,121	102,660,107

The quantity of coarse, medium, and fine yarns spun in Indian mills during the three-month period under review (except for 1913, these data not being available) was:

Counts.	1914	1915	1916	1917
	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>
Nos. 1 to 25.....	156,519,000	165,636,000	153,594,000	151,371,000
Nos. 26 to 40.....	16,675,000	14,513,000	17,249,000	19,881,000
Above No. 40.....	805,000	243,000	1,230,000	1,457,000

Details of Woven-Goods Production.

The quantities of gray, bleached, and colored goods woven in Indian mills during April-June of the last four years (details for 1913 not being available) were:

Piece goods.	1914	1915	1916	1917
	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>
Gray and bleached:				
Shirtings and long cloth.....	19,613,000	24,091,000	24,385,000	27,588,000
T cloths, domestics, and sheetings.....	8,090,000	8,442,000	10,809,000	9,360,000
Dhuties.....	14,887,000	13,261,000	21,549,000	18,953,000
Chaddars.....	5,770,000	6,290,000	4,858,000	4,930,000
Colored.....	14,066,000	15,834,000	21,678,000	26,961,000

The total quantity of woven goods produced in Indian mills during April-June, 1913, 1914, 1915, 1916, and 1917 was, as already stated, 66,479,790 pounds, 69,601,854 pounds, 82,080,492 pounds, 94,868,121 pounds, and 102,660,107 pounds, respectively. Figured on a conventional basis, this output represented 289,936,213 yards of gray, bleached, and colored piece goods in 1913, 296,153,300 yards in 1914, 343,361,415 yards in 1915, 394,485,053 yards in 1916, and 429,501,922 yards in 1917; and included, besides, 175,246 dozen hosiery and gray and colored woven goods other than piece goods in 1913, 178,096 dozen in 1914, 130,434 dozen in 1915, 189,383 dozen in 1916, and 265,582 dozen in 1917.

MEXICAN MARKET FOR ELECTRIC METERS.

[Consul G. C. Woodward, Matamoros, Tamaulipas, Oct. 19.]

Probably the only cities in the State of Tamaulipas, Mexico, in which electric lighting plants are established are Tampico, in the extreme southern part of the State; Victoria, the capital, in the southwestern central section, with an approximate population of 18,000; and Matamoros, the gateway to this part of Mexico, situated just across the Rio Grande from Brownsville, Tex., with an estimated population of 8,000.

In the last two named cities little if any electricity is used for other than lighting purposes, except in the operating of motion-picture machines, for electrically operated musical instruments, and in a few cases for domestic purposes.

The electric lighting company in Victoria is financed by Mexican capital and managed by a Mexican citizen, while the one in Matamoros is financed principally by American capital and managed by an American citizen.

Machinery Equipment of Plant.

The machinery of the Matamoros plant consists of a 175-kilowatt generator, connected direct to a 175-horsepower engine, and it has a reserve 75-kilowatt generator with a 75-horsepower engine, the machinery all being of American manufacture. An alternating current is used, and an outside voltage of 1,200 is carried. All outside wires are carried on poles, and inside wiring is both visible and concealed. While there are some chandeliers, the majority of the houses use cord for suspending lamps.

Until recently the service of the company in Matamoros has been very poor. Several times a month the city has had no lights throughout the night, and there have been similar conditions at frequent intervals for shorter periods. This was attributed to various reasons, such as lack of fuel, accident to machinery, difficulty in securing competent workmen, etc. A rebate is allowed by the company when the lights are off for five consecutive nights. During the last two months little or no difficulty has been experienced in the operation of the plant.

Plant Operated Only at Night.

Early in the summer it was thought that the plant would be operated night and day, but up to the present time the power has been on only from sundown to sunrise, the period for lighting the city.

With the exception of a few places, such as motion-picture houses, etc., where the owners have purchased and installed meters, none are in use. The tariff of charges per month for each light in Mexican currency is:

Number of lights.	25 watts.	40 watts.	60 watts.	100 watts
First 5 lights.....	\$1.50	\$1.75	\$2.00	\$3.00
Second 5 lights.....	1.00	1.50	1.75	2.50
Third 5 lights.....	.80	1.25	1.50	2.00
Fourth 5 lights.....	.60	1.00	1.25	1.75
All over 20.....	.50	.75	1.00	1.50

Advantage in Use of Meters.

It is thought that this kind of a tariff furnishes a temptation to subscribers to run private wires, and use a greater number of lights than contracted for with the company, and while a \$10 fine is assessed on a subscriber who is found using larger or a greater number of lights than contracted for, little attempt has been made to keep a check on the amount of electricity used in the various buildings. It has been pointed out to the manager of the company that the installation of meters at a monthly rental, while creating an initial expense, would soon prove profitable, as it would have a tendency to increase the sale of current. Under the present tariff the householder in making a contract with the company naturally arranges for the least possible number of lights. He does without lamps in rooms other than where their use is needed the greater part of the time, and as the need arises temporarily transfers the lamps to rooms for which none are contracted. With meters installed lights would be placed in all rooms, and without doubt a greater amount of electricity would be used.

It is thought possible that if reasonably cheap and reliable meters can be furnished the company could be induced to use them. In that case there would be a market for several hundred, the number of subscribers at present being about 300.

The manager of the Matamoros Electric Co. is Emilio Puig, who may be addressed at Matamoros, Tamaulipas, Mexico.

GOVERNMENT PURCHASE OF NEW ZEALAND WHEAT CROP.

[Consul General Alfred A. Winslow, Auckland, Oct. 5.]

According to an order in council recently gazetted, the New Zealand Government is authorized to purchase the wheat grown in New Zealand during the season 1917-18 at 5s. 10d. (\$1.41) per bushel delivered free on board in sacks at the nearest port or where delivery is made with the consent or direction of the Government.

The regulations provide that, save in the case of the permission of the board of trade, it shall not be lawful for any person to purchase any wheat of the ensuing harvest except in the case of a retail purchase not exceeding 50 bushels.

SPECIAL STATEMENTS COMPILED BY THE BUREAU.

The following special statements have recently been compiled in the Research Division of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce: Imports of condensed and preserved milk into specified countries; exports of nitrate of soda from Chile, 1915; imports of leather into Austria-Hungary, 1913; imports of explosives into Uruguay (1910, 1911, and 1915), Peru, and Bolivia (1915). These statistics may be examined by making application to the Bureau.

OFFICES OF THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE.

DISTRICT OFFICES.

NEW YORK: 784 Customhouse.
BOSTON: 1801 Customhouse.
CHICAGO: 504 Federal Building.
ST. LOUIS: 402 Third National Bank Building.
NEW ORLEANS: 1020 Hibernia Bank Building.
SAN FRANCISCO: 307 Customhouse.
SEATTLE: 848 Henry Building.

COOPERATIVE OFFICES.

CLEVELAND: Chamber of Commerce.
CINCINNATI: Chamber of Commerce.
CINCINNATI: General Freight Agent, Southern Railway, 96 Ingalls Building.
LOS ANGELES: Chamber of Commerce.
PHILADELPHIA: Chamber of Commerce.
CHATTANOOGA: South American Agent, Southern Railway System.
PORTLAND, OREG.: Chamber of Commerce.
DAYTON: Greater Dayton Association.

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the Bureau and its district and cooperative offices. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and state opportunity number. The Bureau does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases. Symbols: * Reported by American consular officers; † Reported by commercial attachés and commercial agents; ‡ Direct inquiries received by the Bureau.

In considering the following "opportunities" special regard should be had to the laws and regulations governing export licenses and trading with the enemy.

Agricultural implements.....	25786	Machinery.....	25782, 25784, 25785
Chemical products.....	25783	Manicure files.....	25789
Combs.....	25789	Paper.....	25791
Druggist sundries.....	25787	Pencils.....	25789
Drugs and medicines.....	25787	Pharmaceutical products.....	25783
Dyestuffs and extracts.....	25783, 25790	Pumps.....	25785
Electric motor cars.....	25788	Typewriters and supplies.....	25791
Insulating materials.....	25792		

25782.‡—A man in Bolivia desires to be placed in communication with American manufacturers and exporters of paper-making machinery.

25783.†—A society in France is in the market for chemical products, pure or for industrial use; dyestuffs and extracts; and pharmaceutical products. Correspondence may be in English. Usual terms are 30 days. References.

25784.‡—A man in Cuba desires to be put in touch with American manufacturers and exporters of machinery for making vermicelli, including a dryer.

25785.*—An agency is desired by a commission agent in Spain for the sale of pumps and pumping machinery. Correspondence should be in Spanish. References.

25786.*—A firm in Switzerland desires to purchase and secure an agency for the sale of power-farming implements, such as tractors, small gang plows, and cultivators; all kinds of farm labor-saving implements; also motor-driven farm implements that would be fitted for county ownership on a rental plan to small farmers. Quotations may be made f. o. b. New York. Correspondence may be in English. References.

25787.‡—A firm in Nicaragua wishes to receive catalogues, etc., from American manufacturers and exporters of druggist sundries, medicines, drugs, etc. Full information in regard to prices, etc., should be submitted.

25788.*—A man in Norway desires to purchase a 5 or 7 passenger electric touring car as a sample, with a view to securing the agency for the sale of such cars in that country. Quotations should be made f. o. b. New York. Payment will be made by cash against bill of lading or against shipping documents in New York. Cars should be suitable for a hilly country. Quotations should be cabled. Correspondence may be in English. References.

25789.‡—A man in England wishes to buy rubber or celluloid combs, 3½ or 4 inches long, inclosed in a metal case of the same length; rubber or celluloid pocket combs, 4 inches long, together with small manicure file, both fitted in a leather or leatherette pocket case with flap and button clasp; and nickel-plated pocket pencils with clip to hold in pocket, to be used with lead in sticks.

25790.*—A firm in Italy desires to purchase aniline colors and dyestuffs for cotton and woolen goods. Quotations should be cabled with estimate on freight rates to Genoa. Cash will be paid. Correspondence may be in English.

25791.*—A man in Brazil desires to secure an agency for the sale of typewriters, typewriting paper, carbon paper, ribbons, and all kinds of typewriter supplies. Correspondence may be in English. References.

25792.*—An agency is desired by a man in France for the sale of insulating materials. Correspondence may be in English. References.

NO 1211 COMMERCE REPORTS



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ISSUED DAILY BY THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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No. 263 Washington, D. C., Friday, November 9 1917

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BRITISH DECREE REGULATES PRICES OF CHEESE AND BUTTER.

[Cablegram from American consul general, London, dated Nov. 6.]

Retail price of cheese controlled from November 5 by new substitution order. Retailers' profits limited to 2½d. per pound, small addition thereto allowed to small distributors. Maximum price of butter changed, now includes Danish and Dutch at 229s. per 112 pounds; Australian, Argentine, American, and Irish factory butter now 220s.; New Zealand, Canadian, and Irish creamery, 224s.

CHRISTMAS PRESENTS FOR OUR BOYS ABROAD.

The Bureau of Exports of the War Trade Board has issued to the Commanding General, Hoboken, N. J., license R. A. C. No. 39, covering all express and mail matter intended as Christmas presents for ultimate delivery to the American Expeditionary Forces. Shipments of this kind, conforming to Bulletin No. 63, issued by the War Department on October 26, will not need individual license. Anyone wishing to send a present to an American soldier abroad can do so freely, without applying for a license, by simply complying with the requirements of Bulletin No. 63 of the War Department.

CANADA PROHIBITS USE OF GRAIN FOR POTABLE LIQUORS.

An order in council, published in the Canada Gazette for November 3, provides that "on and after December 1, 1917, and until the Governor General in Council has by order declared that the present abnormal conditions have ceased, no grain of any kind and no substance that can be used for food shall be used in Canada for the distillation of potable liquors.

Any person violating the above regulation shall be guilty of an offense and shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding \$5,000, or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months, or to both fine and imprisonment.

TUNGSTEN FROM SOUTH CHINA.

[Consul General George E. Anderson, Hongkong, Sept. 13.]

There has been great activity in the shipment of wolfram ore from South China through Hongkong in the past few months, and present indications are that the export will assume very important proportions. Because of war restrictions and other conditions most of the ore heretofore exported has gone to Great Britain, and British war regulations at the present time make it difficult to ship South China ore to the United States. It is anticipated that this state of things will be remedied in the course of a short time, and in the meanwhile buyers for American steel manufacturers have been investigating the South China situation and have organized the work of gathering the available ore to such an extent that there is almost a boom in the business.

The course of the trade in Hongkong since the development of the South China fields commenced this year may be shown by the fact that the exports from Hongkong in June amounted to 60 tons, in July to 78 tons, and for the first half of August to 92 tons, permits to ship to the United States being withdrawn about the middle of August. There is now on hand in Hongkong and Canton warehouses perhaps 500 tons of the ore ready for sending to the United States as soon as permission from the British Government covering transshipment at Hongkong can be obtained.

No Systematic Development of Ore Field as Yet.

There seems to be considerable difference of opinion as to what effect this new supply of tungsten from South China will have upon the American and European markets. One American buyer expresses the opinion that with a proper development of the South China field the available supply of tungsten in the world can be increased by at least 20 per cent. While shipments so far have been considerable, the actual systematic development of the fields has not yet commenced.

The ore so far shipped has been obtained almost altogether from surface pockets or deposits in the hills of Kwangtung Province, particularly in the North and East River country. It has been gathered in characteristic Chinese style—a little here and a little there and without regard to the origin of the pockets or the possibility of developing veins or strata of ore-bearing rock. The actual limits of the field, accordingly, are not clearly defined. On the other hand, the deposits so far found and worked are so widely scattered that there is every reason to believe that the actual ore to be obtained from the field is of large amount. The ore varies considerably in quality and, as the pockets now known are worked, there seems to be a slight falling off in the percentage of tungsten. However, most of the buyers on the ground anticipate large returns from the field.

Swedish Government Requisitions Candles.

American Minister Ira N. Morris, reports from Stockholm that the Government of Sweden has issued a royal decree requisitioning all supplies of candles in the Kingdom which exceed 20 packages, or 8,500 grams.

PRICES OF NEWSPAPERS IN NETHERLANDS AND GREECE.

[Consul Frank W. Mahin, Amsterdam, Netherlands, Oct. 1.]

Before the war newspapers were not sold on the streets of Amsterdam, but only at news stands and publication offices. The war has produced street sales—not by newsboys but by men and women. They are not numerous, as in the United States and England, however, for as a rule the Dutch people are regular subscribers to the journals that they read. Until a few months ago the price of the newspaper sold on the street was 5 Dutch cents (2 American). Then it was raised to 6 Dutch cents, and to-day it has been advanced to 7½ (3 American). This applies to the principal daily newspapers.

The advance is made by the publishers because of the increasing cost of paper and other items. The price to regular subscribers, advanced 10 per cent in 1916, is not changed at present. It ranges from \$1.35 to \$1.75 per quarter, according to the newspaper. This subscription price covers a morning and an evening edition every day except Sunday and Monday, which have one edition each, and except on several holidays in the course of the year, when one or both editions are omitted. The week-day morning issue consists of 4 to 6 pages; the Sunday, 8 to 12. The evening issue, which is the most important, consists of 10 to 14 pages.

[Consul General Alexander W. Weddell, Athens, Greece, Oct. 3.]

Decree Issued by Greek Government.

By a Royal decree which was published September 1, 1917, O. S., no Greek daily paper will be allowed to be sold at a price lower than 10 lepta (about 2 cents). Semiweekly papers may be sold for 15 lepta (\$0.0289). Annual subscriptions to daily papers must be at least 36 drachmas per annum (\$6.95). For exceptional reasons, and not more than 15 days during the year, papers of double size may be issued.

From the prices which have been given 2½ lepta will be paid to the sellers of the papers (about ½ cent), while ½ lepton (¼ cent) will go to the selling agency. Foreign-language newspapers published in Athens also will pay to vendors and selling agencies a total of 3 lepta on each paper, but the proportional distribution is not prescribed.

The total weekly surface of daily papers must not exceed 2.04 square meters (22 square feet). Semiweekly papers may not exceed 73 by 75½ centimeters each issue (28½ by 29½ inches).

Infringement of these regulations will be punished by imprisonment up to six months and a fine of not more than \$1,000. The regulations will continue in force from the date of publication until six months after the signing of a treaty of peace.

ADDITIONS TO THE LICENSE AND CONSERVATION LISTS.

The War Trade Board has determined that the following commodities are properly included in the list of those requiring export licenses, when destined to the countries named in the second division of the proclamation of August 27, 1917 [see COMMERCE REPORTS for Aug. 29, 1917]. These commodities are also added to the conservation list: Wire rope, arsenic and compounds thereof, carbon electrodes, high-speed steel, and tool steel.

CAPITAL INVESTMENTS IN GERMAN LIMITED COMPANIES.

[British (Government) Board of Trade Journal, Oct. 18.]

The Hamburgischer Correspondent publishes an article on the economic development of Germany during the war, as shown by new capital investments in limited companies. It is claimed by the writer that a review of this kind is a means of estimating the changes in the economic conditions of a country during a given period. The limited companies of the Empire, which, it is said, form the most important factor in its economic activities, reflect in their prosperity or adversity the fluctuations in the economic life of the State.

The writer compares three periods of 18 months, namely, (1) the period from January 1, 1913, to June 30, 1914; (2) the period from July, 1914, to the end of 1915; and (3) the period from the beginning of 1916 to the middle of 1917. The first period is described as one of record prosperity, the second as a period of difficulty and distress, and the third as a period of recuperation. As an additional point of comparison, the writer states that on December 1, 1912, there were in Germany 30,032 limited companies, with a total capital of 21,459,327,000 marks. [At normal exchange the mark is worth 23.8 cents.]

In the first period referred to above, it is stated that the new capital invested in limited companies in Germany amounted to 1,965,707,000 marks, as compared with 802,591,000 marks in the second period and 1,095,980,000 marks in the third period. Taking the index number for the first period as 100, the index number for the second period would be 40.83, and for the third period 55.75. A very different result is obtained if the new capital invested in the first six months of 1917 be compared with that in the first six months of 1913. The index numbers are then 87.14 and 100, respectively.

The principal branches of commerce and industry in which the limited companies founded in Germany during the last three years are engaged are as follows, the aggregate amount of their capital being indicated by the figures in parentheses: 1,350 commercial companies (193,111,000 marks); 1,154 metal-working, engineering, and electrotechnical companies (565,571,000 marks); 557 provisions and foodstuffs companies (205,652,000 marks); 373 chemical, oils and fats, and heating and lighting material companies (173,735,000 marks); 357 building companies (42,906,000 marks); 152 textile companies (62,782,000 marks); 198 stone, clay, and gravel companies (23,789,000 marks); and 138 banking and insurance companies (221,807,000 marks). The total number of limited companies founded in Germany during the three war years is stated to be 5,759, with a total capital of 1,904,096,000 marks.

VALUE OF SPAIN'S MINERAL PRODUCTS.

[Consul General Carl Bailey Hurst, Barcelona, Oct. 4.]

Figures compiled by the official Consejo de Minería of Spain disclose the fact that Spanish ores extracted during 1916 had a value at the pit of \$68,914,033, compared with \$45,721,829 worth of ore mined in 1915. The value of the metal and mineral products from domestic smelting works amounted in 1916 to \$104,258,448, in contrast to \$66,887,533 in 1915.

ISOLATION OF THE PUERTO PLATA CONSULAR DISTRICT.

[Consul Arthur McLean, Puerto Plata, Dominican Republic, Sept. 27.]

The consular district of Puerto Plata comprises the northern half of the Dominican Republic, with an area of about 10,000 square miles and a population of approximately 300,000 inhabitants. Its trade is almost exclusively with the United States.

Despite the fact that this district is within 1,275 miles of New York, mails are received here from that port only at intervals of two and even three weeks. During the crop season, however, mails are received more frequently. Practically all the mails, not only from the United States but from all the rest of the world, are brought by the Clyde Line steamers from New York. The only other route by which mails reach this region is by the *Marina* of the Bull-Insular line, from Porto Rico. The *Marina* calls at Sanchez and Puerto Plata about once a month with mails from Porto Rico, but brings very little or none from the United States.

This district has not even any regular connection with its neighbor, Haiti, so that almost all mail between the two places is sent via New York.

More Frequent Service Would Stimulate Trade.

It would facilitate business greatly if this Puerto Plata district had a direct weekly service with New York, more frequent communication with Porto Rico, and a line to Habana and to New Orleans or some other city of the South. It would seem that a fortnightly or at least monthly mail, freight, and passenger service from New Orleans via Habana, (Cuba), Port-au-Prince (Haiti), Puerto Plata (Dominican Republic), and San Juan (Porto Rico), to St. Thomas (Virgin Islands) would be a paying proposition. Such a service would certainly be a great aid to this section of the Dominican Republic.

Lumber, rice, foodstuffs, and other products of the South are imported into these islands in large quantities, and there should be sufficient return cargo of sugar, coffee, tobacco, and other commodities to make the undertaking successful. If this district had regular and frequent communication with Cuba and Porto Rico, mails and passengers could connect in Habana and San Juan with the fast lines sailing from those ports to New York, and also by rail via Key West for all parts of the United States.

The southern section of this island, which includes the capital—Santo Domingo City—and the sugar port of San Pedro de Macoris, already has one regular line to Cuba and two to Porto Rico.

New Pacific Steamship Service.

Vice Consul Luther K. Zabriskie reports from Mexico City, under date of October 30, that according to a local publication the secretary of communications and public works has just granted the necessary permission to the Gulf Mail Steamship Co. to increase its sailing service on the Pacific Coast. The ships of this company will visit the principal ports on the Mexican west coast proceeding as far as the Gulf of Cortez, in Lower California.

COTTON PIECE-GOODS TRADE IN FOOCHOW DISTRICT.

[Consul Albert W. Pontius, Foochow, China.]

With the exception of dyed cotton cuts, cotton italians, and turkey red cloth, there have been decreased imports in all lines of cotton piece goods in the Foochow district during the present year. The stringency of the money market has been responsible for a poor trade in even the native and Japanese manufactured cotton cloth. There are 30 wholesale and 80 retail native piece-goods merchants located in Foochow, and in favorable years these firms handle imports exceeding \$500,000 in value.

The low stocks in Shanghai and the high freight rates prevailing have been responsible for an advance in prices of 50 per cent, and the local wholesalers realized a good profit on the stocks of foreign manufactured cloth held over from the previous year. The poor crops harvested during the year indicate that the piece-goods business will be dull for some months to come.

Japanese Activity in the Trade—Opportunity for American Goods.

Before the war the British manufacturer had a monopoly of the piece-goods trade, but the Japanese merchant has supplanted the British cloth to a considerable extent. Japanese salesmen during recent months have been visiting the local trade at regular intervals, and as a result of persistent endeavor about 70 per cent of the piece-goods trade is now in the hands of the Japanese manufacturers.

With the exception of several small imports of drills, no American cotton cloth has appeared on the local market during the present year. The American manufacturer has as yet failed to show any great activity in endeavoring to secure a substantial share in the cotton-goods trade in this district, but this condition will change when it is realized that American goods are in high favor and that the appearance of an American firm or representative would be heartily welcomed. Through the efforts of this consulate a few small orders have recently been placed with manufacturers in the United States. It is to be regretted that several of the local native merchants from past experiences feel that a lack of attention and want of consideration is a habit of some American manufacturers, but when such incidents come to the knowledge of this consulate every effort is made to rectify matters.

Joint American-Chinese Trading Concern Suggested.

One of the local merchants has recently offered to raise \$100,000 Mexican (\$65,000 United States currency) in order to establish a joint American-Chinese import and export firm, the American concerned to provide a similar amount at least. This offer was made in good faith and the Chinese concern is well known to the consulate. It would be fortunate if such a firm could be successfully established in this port. Even though the German merchants are cut off entirely from their home markets, only very recently has it become known that endeavors were being made to contract for the importation of cotton cloth, delivery to be made after the war.

In the sale of goods to local merchants, American manufacturers should quote prices c. i. f. Foochow, Hongkong, or Shanghai. The local native merchants have generally been accustomed to buy either cash against shipping documents or on a 30 to 90 days credit basis

after delivery of goods. In the latter event the merchants usually furnish security for the amount of the invoice in the shape of a guaranty bond executed by one or more.

Classes of Piece Goods, in Demand.

The best demand in cotton piece goods is at present in shirtings, calicoes, T cloths, chintzes and cotton prints, turkey-red cottons, dyed cotton cuts, cotton italians, velvets and velveteens, drills, and flannel. There are two grades of shirtings, dyed and plain, in grey and white colors; most of this cloth is of British manufacture and is sold in bolts of 36 inches by 40 yards, ranging from 7 to 9 pounds weight. The trade in T cloth is good, the British and Japanese manufacturers now having a monopoly of the trade since the complete disappearance of the Russian cloth. Cambric calicoes are also mostly of British manufacture, this cloth being dyed locally in a blue or black. Turkey-red cloth is shipped chiefly to interior points, being imported chiefly from Japan.

Dyed cotton cuts and cotton italians are chiefly of British manufacture, a good demand being had for the former cloth in blue color. About 60 per cent of the local trade in drills is British, the American cloth sharing the remainder of the trade. Cotton flannel comes largely from Japan and is put up in bolts 28 inches by 20 to 60 yards, both dyed and printed. Velvets and velveteens are imported chiefly from England. Importations of nankeens or native manufactured cloth from Shanghai have declined more than 50 per cent, due largely to the sharp competition of the Japanese cloth.

NEW CORPORATIONS IN THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS.

[J. F. Boomer, correspondent, Manila, Sept. 22.]

A corporation with \$250,000 capital has been organized in Iloilo for the mining of coal at Escalante, Occidental Negros. It is known as the Negros Coal Co. The deposit it is proposed to work is in the barrio of Salamanca, Escalante, on the lands of Simon Lizares. The incorporators are Esteban de la Rama, Fortunato Fuentes, Pio Sian, Simon Lizares, Salvador de la Rama, and Representative Rafael Alunan, of Occidental Negros. The head office will be located in Iloilo, P. I.

The De la Rama Warehouse Co. has been organized in Iloilo. It is capitalized for \$250,000, of which about one-half has been subscribed and one-fifth paid in. The incorporators are Esteban de la Rama, Fortunato Fuentes, Pio Sian, Aniceta de la Rama, Mariano de la Rama, and Jesus de la Rama. The corporation proposes to construct warehouses for the storage of crops pending their marketing. It is planned to build a large warehouse at Iloilo in the immediate future. The head office of the corporation is at Iloilo, P. I.

SICILIAN LEMON SHIPMENTS TO UNITED STATES.

During the September quarter 67,207 boxes of lemons were invoiced at the Catania (Italy) consulate for export to the United States. This, reports Vice Consul Robert F. Fernald, brings the total shipments of lemons from that Sicilian port to the United States during the first nine months of 1917 up to 201,432 boxes, 33,702 boxes having gone forward in the first quarter and 100,523 boxes in the second.

TECHNICAL SKILL IN LYON'S FUTURE GROWTH.

[Translation of article in *Les Intérêts Economiques of Lyon*, forwarded by Vice Consul Gustave J. Barrett, Lyon, France, Sept. 8.]

It had become quite a common thing to say that Germany was about to conquer slowly but surely the industrial and commercial markets of Europe and of the world, when it committed the folly of having recourse to arms in order to assure more quickly its domination. Unfortunately, we perceived a little too late that the German economic offensive prepared the military offensive. Now that we can dream of organizing for the economic fight that will surely follow the victory of the allied armies, it is regrettable to say that we are just as poorly prepared for this new battle as we were before the war. However, we can face the future with some degree of confidence. The marvelous effort which France has put forth during the past three years, and which has astonished the world, convinces us that in the economic field, as on the field of battle, we can win. It is necessary to have the spirit and ambition.

Schools and Laboratories Needed.

For the industrial war, now in a state of preparation, it is necessary to have proper schools, laboratories, and technicians. Everyone recognizes the necessity of creating such institutions, and of developing those that now exist. Lyon, the city of initiative, hopes to give a good example of progress in this respect.

Under the auspices of the mayor, M. Herriot, and of the rector of the university, M. Joubin, there was constituted last year a commission of studies, composed of the best qualified representatives of the university, the chamber of commerce, the general council, the members of Parliament, the delegates of industrial and agricultural syndicates, scientists, professors, eminent engineers, and many notable manufacturers. This commission had as its object the preparation of a program of advanced technical training, and at the same time to seek ways and means of endowing Lyon with new scientific institutions.

The commission immediately commenced work, holding many sessions at which were elaborated complete programs of technical teaching from the preapprenticeship stage to special research for engineering and agricultural scientists. The existing programs were susceptible of many solutions. The commission decided not to interfere with the establishments already existing at Lyon, such as the school of Martinière, the Professional Teaching School of Chemistry, and the Central School, which have proved their worth, but on the contrary to assist these institutions, and to coordinate their efforts.

Reports of Institutions Summarized.

From the reports presented by the directors of our best schools or institutions of technical instruction, and summarized by M. Joubin in a magistral exposé, we can not as yet announce any important essential decisions.

It is well known that one of our most interesting institutions is assuredly the school of Martinière, popular at Lyon, celebrated in France, and known to the entire world. This school is a very original product of the practical Lyonnaise spirit.

The school of rue des Augustins, although enlarged some years ago, unfortunately is still too small, and its present facilities are not adequate to give general satisfaction to the parents of its pupils. They have facilities for admitting only 180 new boy students each year. At present there are 400 candidates for entrance. Some of the candidates who are not admitted on account of the scarcity of accommodations enter other schools, but the great majority are obliged to seek some kind of employment. It is important, therefore, to increase as soon as possible the number of places in the school of Martinière if it is not desired to have 200 children each year lose a technical education.

Should Reorganize Weaving School.

The Municipal School of Weaving, which does not meet the demands of Lyon (the undisputed silk city), should be reorganized and developed. The time has come also to revive some former projects, now already quite old, calling for the creation of a school to be national in character, but to be as well regional, for weaving, embroidery, and kindred arts.

The commission declared in favor of specializing the courses followed in the three primary superior schools to embrace the following: Organization of a technical section in the Rue Chapponay, a commercial section in Rue Neyret, and a special section in Rue de Condé. It would be necessary to provide for the Society of Professional Teaching of the Rhône the site and sufficient credit for a methodical organization of evening courses in technical instruction.

The most important thing is to bring about the enlargement of our School of Chemistry and our Central School, two institutions of which Lyon can be justly proud.

The School of Chemistry, created by the late Prof. Raulin, has annually 200 students. With the future development of the chemical industry it can hope to have 300 students. Therefore the enlargement of this institution is an urgent necessity, as at present there is not sufficient room.

Chemists Needed in Industrial Battle.

It is not necessary to insist on the importance of the future Lyon School of Chemistry, because as a matter of fact everything possible has been said regarding the backwardness of our chemical industry compared to the German chemical industry. Unfortunately enough, we know something of the present state of this industry at Lyon—the city which was originally its birthplace. In the economic fight of to-morrow we will have need, above all else, of a great number of chemists who are well trained in laboratory work.

Along with the School of Chemistry the Central Lyonnaise School is surely destined to develop. The building, which was opened in 1901, for a very long time has been insufficient for the 230 students who follow the training. We must make provision for 500 students in the near future. It is therefore necessary to examine the question of the transfer of the school into much larger buildings constructed especially for such work. It will be possible to give a much greater technical character to the teaching by the development of practical work, the enlargement and division of the classrooms for the different machines (electrical and generating motors, etc.), and the crea-

tion of a department to be devoted to mechanical drawing, construction, etc.

Funds Provided by Manufacturers.

Lyon manufacturers have listened with interest to this propaganda to develop Lyon's industrial institutions, and in recognition have donated various large sums of money to the cause. Considerable capital has been pledged, and it is hoped that this will make realizable the views expressed by the rector of the university. The Lyon Central School will then figure in the same rank as other great French schools.

There is something else that must complete the work of technical instruction, and that is the foundation of an institute of technical and agricultural research, such as exists in all great industrial countries except France. It was through its great advance in chemistry that Germany was able to establish so quickly those industries for creating products which were indispensable to the war, or for replacing those necessary to its subsistence which it was not allowed to receive from abroad on account of the blockade.

Two Groups of Institutions.

These institutions will be formed into two groups—one devoted to technical research (chemistry and physics, industrial); the other to agricultural research (entomology, botany, and agricultural chemistry). The former would include research work with a view to stimulating and facilitating the creation of new industries and the perfection of existing industries, which are so abundant in the Lyon region, such as the production of coloring materials, dyes, glues, gelatins, manure, phosphates, photography, etc.; and also electrometallurgy and thermoelectricity, which have before them promising careers. This laboratory of chemical industry will include four sections—mineral chemistry, organic chemistry, electrochemistry, and mineral materials (drawing and experimental materials, and mineralogic drawings).

The physical part of the institute would have for its object the most important research work, relating to the application of electricity, heat, light, etc.

The agricultural institute (research of entomology, pisciculture, agriculture, sericulture, applied botany, agricultural chemistry, etc.) would render great service to all the rich Lyon agricultural region.

The report of M. Joubin provides also for the extension of the Bacteriological Institute, and it is not again necessary to bring before the public the importance of meeting this great public need.

The program is a vast one, and the complete execution of the scheme will call for a total outlay of 7,000,000 to 10,000,000 francs for the first establishment. The effort asked is considerable, but the results will justify the greatest sacrifices.

Forecasts Future Growth of City.

In conclusion, we can do nothing better than to reproduce the eloquent remarks of the eminent rector, M. Joubin, in regard to the future of Lyon:

The astonishing industrial progress of the Lyon region in the world of chemistry, metallurgy, mechanics, and electrotechnics; the traces of coal deposits at

the gates of Lyon; the probable increase and development of navigation; and the utilization on a grand scale of the motive power of the Rhone River—all this will assist in rendering doubly facile the development of different branches of culture and bring back to the farms those workers who had become discouraged. This gives the certainty that the city of Lyon is destined to be one of the great capitals.

Its population, like its prosperity, would increase by reason of the expenditures to be made at opportune times. The sacrifices made would therefore be remunerative. By the establishment of these technical institutions that are proposed, the creation of which will surely be participated in by the State, the municipal council will have given something worthy of it to these groups of original institutions which are its pride and glory.

These establishments of instruction, the hospital of Grand-Blanche, the stadium, abattoirs, the fair of Lyon, etc., will furnish to the population, city or rural, an instrument of science, and to the factories an element of prosperity.

THREE MONTHS' AMERICAN PURCHASES FROM DUTCH EAST INDIES.

[Consul James Oliver Laing, Batavia, Java, Sept. 12.]

The following table shows the quantities of exports from the Netherlands India to the United States (and the Philippines when noted) during the second quarters of 1916 and 1917.

Articles.	April-June, 1916.	April-June, 1917.	Articles.	April-June, 1916.	April-June, 1917.
Antimony (to Manila), pounds.....		882	Oil—Cont'nued.		
Arecanuts..... pounds.....	2,182		Coconut..... do.....	4,785,077	15,068,831
Bamboo hats..... number.....	304,167	149,571	Kajapoeti..... liters.....	10,635	18,150
Cassia..... pounds.....	814,387	754,070	Kananga..... pounds.....	1,736	2,417
Cassia vera..... do.....	44,707	230,222	Kapok seed..... do.....		7,618
Chemical products..... do.....	24,340		Lemongrass..... do.....	493	2,324
Cinchona bark..... do.....		2,380	Patchouly leaves..... do.....		4,158
Cloves..... do.....	27,887	19,950	Pepper:		
Copa..... do.....	257,400	249,578	Black (to Manila)..... do.....	43,000	
Cocoa..... do.....		541,975	Black and white..... do.....	2,741,426	5,174,05
Cocoa (to Manila)..... do.....		27,210	Potash..... do.....	37,471	49,746
Coffee..... do.....	81,931	1,451,227	Quinine..... do.....	4,166	57,158
Coffee (to Manila)..... do.....		186,505	Quinine (to Manila)..... do.....	5,645	578
Copra..... do.....	10,233,693	31,572,082	Rattan..... do.....	2,009,654	1,133
Cutch..... do.....		45,920	Rice..... do.....		3,019,337
Damar..... do.....	1,057,523	870,478	Rubber..... do.....	11,365,944	16,031,210
Damar dust..... do.....	42,880		Sago flour..... do.....	304,344	
Damar seeds..... do.....	58,181		Saltpeper (chili)..... do.....	24,716	
Filter..... do.....	5,165,142	3,900,018	Shells:		
Gambier..... do.....	43,198	453,541	Burres..... do.....	23,784	
Gambier (to Manila)..... do.....		11,267	Green snail..... do.....		61,335
Grass (pandan) hats, number.....	86,696	531,664	Mother-of-pearl..... do.....	111,280	5,935
Gum benzoin..... pounds.....	8,865		Skins:		
Gum copal..... do.....	777,279	1,092,384	Deer..... skins.....	37,375	31,490
Gutta percha..... do.....	239,967	288,711	Goat..... do.....	471,783	589,150
Hemp..... do.....	44,817	353,014	Sheep..... do.....	69,236	72,150
Hides (buffalo and cow), hides.....	149,983	100,797	Snake..... do.....	133	
Jakotong..... pounds.....	1,242,142	776,814	Sugar..... pounds.....	20,225,813	22,892,316
Kapok..... do.....	3,404,778	3,124,016	Tapioca products..... do.....		4,322,073
Kapok (to Manila)..... do.....		79,817	Tea..... do.....	49,381	11,119
Kapok seeds..... do.....		48,652	Tea waste..... do.....		8,13,406
Mac..... do.....	142,132	158,177	Tin..... do.....	13,849,380	9,935,882
Mats (baling)..... number.....		190,000	Tobacco..... do.....		
Nutmegs..... pounds.....	497,154	453,392	Wax:		
Oil:			Paraffin..... do.....	284,481	
Castor..... do.....		8,472	Paraffin (to Manila)..... pounds.....	14,410	
Citronella or essential, pounds.....	344,379	115,612	Wood:		
Citronella (to Manila), pounds.....		2,317	Ebonv..... do.....	112,488	
			Sandal..... do.....	213,077	221,957

FOREIGN TARIFFS.**CANADA.**

[Appraisers' Bulletin No. 1592, Oct. 22.]

Dutiable Value of Iron and Steel.

The values which may be accepted for the purpose of determining the ad valorem duties on iron ore, coke, and certain iron and steel products, purchased before September 25, 1917, and exported to Canada on or after that date are fixed as follows on the basis of the usual points of shipment in the United States: Iron ore, \$5.05 per gross ton; coke, \$6 per net ton; pig iron, \$33 per gross ton; steel bars, \$2.90 per 100 pounds; steel shapes, \$3 per 100 pounds; and steel plates, \$3.25 per 100 pounds. Such articles purchased on or after September 25, are to be dutiable at not less than the invoice value to the purchaser in Canada.

CUBA.

[Customs Circular No. 21, Sept. 26.]

Export Embargoes.

In order to make more effective the control of exports by the Government of the United States and to protect the national interests the President of Cuba has ordered, under date of September 20, 1917; that certain articles shall not be exported or reexported from the island without the authorization of the Treasury Department in each case. The articles affected by the order are as follows: Coal, coke, fuel oil, kerosene, gasoline, and charcoal; food grains and flour and meal made therefrom; fodder and animal feeds; meat and fats; pig iron; steel ingots; ship plates; structural shapes; iron or steel shapes; ferromanganese; fertilizers; and arms, ammunition, and explosives.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC.

[Consul Clement S. Edwards, Santo Domingo, Sept. 26.]

Regulation of Cottonseed Imports.

An executive order of the Military Governor of Santo Domingo, dated September 17, 1917, prohibits the importation of cotton seed except from the United States, and prescribes the conditions to be complied with. In order to secure the admission of cotton seed from the United States the importer must make application, stating the names of the exporter and importer, the kind of cotton seed, and the locality from which it is proposed to be imported. These applications will be forwarded to the United States Department of Agriculture for certification that the seed is free from plant diseases and insect pests. The restrictions are adopted to prevent the introduction of plant diseases and insect pests prevalent in some foreign countries.

HAITI.**Proposed Tariff Revision.**

In reply to an inquiry from the American chargé d'affaires the Haitian Minister of Foreign Affairs has stated that the Department of Commerce of that country is now making a study of desirable modifications in the tariff laws, with the object of making them better adapted to the economic, financial, and industrial conditions of

the country. After the study is completed a project of revision will be submitted for the consideration of the Haitian Government and approval by the Financial Adviser.

MEXICO.

[Vice Consul Luther K. Zabriskie, Mexico City, Oct. 17.]

Modification of Export Tax on Petroleum.

"As a measure of protection to the domestic petroleum refining industry, an Executive decree was issued on October 16, 1917, modifying the special petroleum tax in such a manner that exported crude petroleum will probably be subject to a still higher tax than heretofore. The decree of April 13, 1917, imposing a tax of 10 per cent ad valorem on crude petroleum exported from the country, permitted the Mexican Treasury Department to fix bimonthly the official value to serve as the basis for the tax. Under the more recent decree the 10 per cent tax is to be based not on the value of the crude petroleum itself, but on the value of the fuel oil, crude kerosene, and crude gasoline content. To determine the proportion of these products, the average contents for crude petroleum refined in the country will be taken. The value of the gasoline and kerosene content is to be fixed bimonthly on the basis of the New York quotations for the refined products, with a reduction of three-eighths of a cent per gallon in the case of gasoline. Apparently no reduction is to be allowed for the fuel oil and kerosene content.

[A summary of the taxes on petroleum and petroleum products was given in **COMMERCE REPORTS** for June 5, 1917.]

SALVADOR.

[Diario Oficial, Sept. 11.]

Limitation of Special Exemption for Building Material.

An order of September 10, 1917, limits to February 15, 1918, the period during which certain building materials may be admitted free of duty. Thereafter the regular import duties will be imposed. The exemption was granted in order to facilitate the repair or reconstruction of buildings damaged or destroyed by the earthquake of June, 1917, and a list of the articles affected was given in **COMMERCE REPORTS** for July 18, 1917.

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REDUCED PRICE OF NEW ZEALAND HEMP.

[Consul General Alfred A. Winslow, Auckland, Oct. 5.]

According to an announcement made by the Minister of Agriculture, the British Government has fixed the price at which New Zealand hemp can be sold in London after September 15, 1917, at \$403.92 for good fair New Zealand hemp, \$394.19 for high fair, and \$389.32 for fair, which market will now only return to the millers of New Zealand \$257.92 to \$282.26 f. o. b. This is a drop of from \$53.53 to \$58.40 per ton compared with prices previously ruling in London.

This is keenly felt by the hemp growers and millers in New Zealand, but even at this price there is money in raising hemp, and it is understood that the British Government was expected to supply space for 7,500 bales monthly.

IMPORTS OF BURLAPS AND FLAX FABRICS FROM DUNDEE.

Vice Consul E. R. Pottle reports that the exports invoiced at the American consulate at Dundee, Scotland, for the United States during the nine months ending September 30, 1917, show an increase of \$2,448,715 over the corresponding period of 1916.

The total export figures for 1917 were \$12,122,805, as against \$9,674,090 for 1916, with burlaps (single jute yarn, not bleached, dyed, or stained) amounting to three-fourths of the total.

The principal items, with their value, during the period were as follows:

Articles.	Nine months ended September—		Articles.	Nine months ended September—	
	1916	1917		1916	1917
Burlaps.....	\$5,254,041	\$8,151,114	Flax, harkled.....	\$252,806	\$305,807
Fabrics, flax.....	1,335,633	1,087,780	Yarn, flax.....	262,669	365,299
Manufactures, flax.....	309,672	374,001			

OPENING OF NEW ELECTRIC PLANT IN NEW BRUNSWICK.

[Consul E. Verne Richardson, Moncton, New Brunswick, Canada, Oct. 22.]

An electric-light and power plant designed to serve the two New Brunswick municipalities of Rexton and Richibucto, both of them in the Moncton consular district, was last week completed. This undertaking was briefly described in *COMMERCE REPORTS* of August 24, 1916. The generating station is operated by water power developed from a dam across the Kouchibouguac River, 12 miles upstream from Richibucto. This dam is 210 feet long and stands 28 feet high on a base of 30 feet; the spillway is 21 feet.

DISCOVERY OF TALC IN THE TRANSVAAL.

Consul John P. Bray has transmitted a clipping from the *Johannesburg Star* of August 22 wherein reference is made to the discovery of talc in the Verdite Mines, situated near Barberton, in the Transvaal Province, South Africa. The deposit is said to be superior in quality and almost inexhaustible in quantity.

The discovery, the newspaper states, promises to greatly increase the local industries of Johannesburg. Verdite talc is already being used in the manufacture of soap, talcum powder, chalk, and paint in South Africa.

OFFICES OF THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE.**DISTRICT OFFICES.**

NEW YORK: 734 Customhouse.
 BOSTON: 1801 Customhouse.
 CHICAGO: 504 Federal Building.
 ST. LOUIS: 402 Third National Bank Building.
 NEW ORLEANS: 1020 Hibernia Bank Building.
 SAN FRANCISCO: 307 Customhouse.
 SEATTLE: 848 Henry Building.

COOPERATIVE OFFICES.

CLEVELAND: Chamber of Commerce.
 CINCINNATI: Chamber of Commerce.
 CINCINNATI: General Freight Agent, Southern Railway, 96 Ingalls Building.
 LOS ANGELES: Chamber of Commerce.
 PHILADELPHIA: Chamber of Commerce.
 CHATTANOOGA: South American Agent, Southern Railway System.
 PORTLAND, OREG.: Chamber of Commerce.
 DAYTON: Greater Dayton Association.

COTTON GINNED IN THE UNITED STATES.

The number of bales of cotton ginned from the growth of 1917 in the United States prior to November 1, 1917, with the comparative statistics up to the corresponding dates in 1916 and 1915, is announced by the United States Bureau of the Census. Counting round as half bales, the quantity for the 1917 period was 7,150,254 bales compared with 8,623,893 in 1916 and 7,378,886 in 1915.

The statistics include 133,170 round bales for 1917, 154,141 for 1916, and 68,577 for 1915. The number of sea-island bales is 57,381 for 1917, 80,727 for 1916, and 55,362 for 1915. The distribution of sea island for 1917 by States is: Florida, 26,000; Georgia, 29,540; and South Carolina, 1,833. The figures for 1917 are subject to slight corrections when checked against the individual returns of the ginnerers being transmitted by mail.

The corrected statistics of the quantity of cotton ginned this season prior to October 18 are 5,577,156 bales:

PROPOSALS FOR GOVERNMENT SUPPLIES AND CONSTRUCTION.

[Correspondence should be direct with the offices named, and specifications and other information can usually be obtained at the points where the goods are to be delivered or the work is to be performed. In cases where the time limit is too short to permit firms to submit tenders, they should ask to be placed on the mailing lists of such offices to receive notices calling for future supplies or work of a similar nature.]

Power-plant improvements, No. 4894.—Sealed proposals, indorsed "Proposals for Power-Plant Improvements, Charleston," will be received at the Bureau of Yards and Docks, Navy Department, Washington, D. C., until 11 o'clock a. m. November 26, 1917, and then and there publicly opened, for piping and accessories, coal bunkers, structural-steel foundations, induced draft fans, and miscellaneous work in connection with the installation of new equipment in the power plant at the navy yard, Charleston, S. C. Drawings and specification No. 2661 may be obtained on application to above-mentioned bureau or to the commandant of the navy yard or naval station named.

Juniper spars, No. 4895.—Sealed proposals will be opened by the Lighthouse Inspector, Baltimore, Md., at 2 o'clock p. m. November 22, 1917, for 50 juniper spars to be delivered at Portsmouth, Va. Information may be had on application to above office.

Railroad track scales, No. 4896.—Sealed proposals, indorsed "Proposals for Three Railroad Track Scales," will be received at the Bureau of Yards and Docks, Navy Department, Washington, D. C., until 11 o'clock a. m. November 26, 1917, and then and there publicly opened for furnishing and installing two railroad track scales at navy yard, Portsmouth, N. H., and one at the naval projectile plant, Charleston, W. Va. Drawings and specification No. 2593 may be obtained on application to above-mentioned bureau or to the commandant of the navy yard or naval station named.

Electric-duct system, No. 4897.—Sealed proposals, indorsed "proposals for Electric-Duct System," will be received at the Bureau of Yards and Docks, Navy Department, Washington, D. C., until 11 o'clock a. m. November 26, 1917, and then and there publicly opened, for an electric-duct system at the United States naval projectile plant, Charleston, W. Va. Drawings and specification No. 2669 may be obtained on application to above-mentioned bureau.

Boilers, etc., No. 4898.—Sealed proposals will be opened by the Lighthouse Inspector, Buffalo, N. Y., at 2 o'clock p. m. November 17, 1917, for installation of new boilers, etc., on lighthouse tender *Crocus*. Information may be had on application to above-named office.

Reservoir, No. 4899.—Sealed proposals, indorsed "Proposals for Reservoir, Philadelphia," will be received at the Bureau of Yards and Docks, Navy Department, Washington, D. C., until 11 o'clock a. m. November 26, 1917, and then and there publicly opened for construction of a 2,000,000-gallon reinforced concrete reservoir at the navy yard, Philadelphia, Pa. Drawings and specification No. 2654 may be obtained on application to the bureau or to the commandant of the navy yard or naval station named.

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the Bureau and its district and cooperative offices. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and state opportunity number. The Bureau does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases. Symbols: * Reported by American consular officers; † Reported by commercial attachés and commercial agents; ‡ Direct inquiries received by the Bureau.

In considering the following "opportunities" special regard should be had to the laws and regulations governing export licenses and trading with the enemy.

Bookstore specialties.....	25796	Paints.....	25794
Buffalo pickers and buffers.....	25800	Paper.....	25796
Cardboard.....	25796	Stationery.....	25796
Food products.....	25793	Structural iron.....	25794
Lard.....	25793	Sugar.....	25793
Machinery.....	25798	Textiles.....	25795
Moleskin.....	25795	Vulcanized fiber.....	25801
Needles.....	25797	Waste cotton.....	25795
Novelties and notions.....	25799	Wire.....	25794
Oleomargarine.....	25802	Yarn.....	25795

25793.*—A company in Algeria desires to secure an agency for food products, especially preserved beef, veal, chicken, salmon, lobster, vegetables, sugared condensed milk, pork, ham, sausages, bacon, dried fruits, smoked fish, lard, and sugar. Remittances will be made monthly as goods are sold. The company is willing to assume all expenses and responsibility for the goods after they reach the dock, and obligate itself for the entire consignments made, either directly or through a bank. A complete list of references and firms they represent and pamphlet containing information as to the facilities offered, may be examined at the Bureau or its district offices. (Refer to file No. 93755.) Correspondence should be in French, if possible.

25794.*—An agency is desired by an import commission firm for the sale of structural iron, wire, and paints. Correspondence may be in English. References.

25795.*—A firm in France would like to secure an agency for the sale of all kinds of waste cotton, cotton yarns, and textiles of all kinds, moleskin, etc. Correspondence should be in French. Reference.

25796.*—A firm in Mexico desires to purchase paper, such as news, writing, bond, manila, Bristol, onion skin, carbon, etc.; light cardboard, fancy stationery in boxes, envelopes, and general bookstore specialties. Correspondence may be in English.

25797.*—A man in Italy wishes to buy needles for stocking sewing and knitting machines. Samples of the needles desired may be examined at the Bureau or its district offices. (Refer to file No. 94306.) Cash will be paid. Correspondence is preferred in Italian. American firms are requested to submit samples.

25798.*—A manufacturing company in Australia desires to be placed in communication with American manufacturers and exporters of wool-mill machinery.

25799.*—A man in Mexico is in the market for novelties and notions, such as rubber balls, tobacco pouches, string, toilet paper, shaving mirrors, pocket-books, string net bags, collar studs, tie clips, safety pins, etc. Catalogues and full information should be submitted. Correspondence may be in English.

25800.*—A company in India desires to purchase buffalo pickers for juté mills and buffers of buffalo hide. Payment will be made by cash against documents at destination. Correspondence may be in English. Reference.

25801.*—A man in France wishes to buy vulcanized fiber employed quite extensively by cutlery manufacturers for making handles. Samples of the fiber may be examined at the Bureau or its district offices. (Refer to file No. 93975.) Payment will be made by cash against shipping documents. Correspondence should be in French. Reference.

25802.*—An agency is desired by a company in Canada for the sale of oleomargarine. All business is desired on a commission basis. References.

PRINCETON, N. J. COMMERCE REPORTS



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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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No. 264 Washington, D. C., Saturday, November 10 1917

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SECURITIES NOT ACCEPTED BY RUSSIAN GOVERNMENT.

[Vice Consul Felix Cole, Petrograd, Sept. 19.]

The Temporary Government of Russia has ceased to accept the stocks and bonds of private railroads and private industrial and insurance companies that are not guaranteed by the Government, and certificates of deposits of private commercial banks as securities for the fulfillment of Government contracts and orders or postponed internal-revenue dues and customs duties. These securities, however, may be used as collateral for loans from the Imperial Bank up to a year after the end of the war.

EXTENDING AN EXPORT LICENSE.

The War Trade Board recognizes the need in many instances for the extension of an export license beyond its expiration date. Accordingly the Bureau of Exports, of the Board, has drawn up an application for extension of export licenses.

These forms, which will receive consideration in the same manner as original applications for licenses, are available at the Washington office of the Bureau, 1435 K Street NW., and at the branch offices.

MEASURES FOR PROVISIONING SPAIN.

[Consul General Carl Bailey Hurst, Barcelona, Oct. 5.]

The difficulties in obtaining sufficient supplies of food products for Spain having steadily increased, the Spanish Government has adopted a new measure to deal with the situation. In November, 1916, a provisions board was created, which made a thorough study of the demands of the country. This organization was dissolved in April, 1917, and it has now been decided to intrust the work to one person, who will have general charge of securing and distributing alimentary products. By a royal decree, published October 4, a Com-

mis-sary General of Provisions was appointed with power to buy foreign wheat, regulate its price and distribution, and restrict consumption. Together with the Ministry of Public Works the official in question will have charge of the transportation of provisions by sea and land, control exportation, and carry out so far as possible the regulations of November 23, 1916, prescribed for the former provisions board.

NEW NEW YORK HEADQUARTERS FOR THE WAR TRADE BOARD.

Over Saturday and Sunday the offices of the War Trade Board, at present located at 11 Broadway, will be moved to new quarters on the ground floor of 45 Broadway, the space formerly occupied by the Hamburg-American Line.

It is the intention of the War Trade Board to increase the facilities of the New York office as rapidly as possible for handling the work which has been intrusted to the Board by Executive order, under the espionage and trading with the enemy acts, with a desire to expedite the legitimate trade of the country so far as it may be possible under the conservation plans of the Government. In line with this policy, branches of the Bureau of Transportation and of the Bureau of Enemy Trade have been established at the New York offices, in addition to the branch of the Bureau of Exports which has previously been in operation at New York. The branch of the Bureau of Transportation is in charge of Mr. Marc M. Michael and that of the Enemy Trade in charge of Mr. Howard Scherwood.

CEMENT FOR SOUTH AMERICA SKILLFULLY PACKED.

[Special Agent Grosvenor M. Jones, Santiago, Chile, Sept. 19.]

American cement deserves a high place on the honor roll of good export packing. During a tour of the west coast of South America hundreds of barrels of various brands of American cement were seen, and with comparatively few exceptions they were in excellent condition when they arrived.

Photographs which were taken recently at Santiago of cement shipments—one lot from the United States and the other from Europe—furnished a contrast which is favorable to our shippers. The European lot is shown in a lighter alongside the docks. The heads of several of the barrels are broken in. The American lot, seen on one of the docks, reveals no such defects in packing. The barrels have a strip of board across each head, a protection which is always found on those from American cement factories, but not on other barrels.

MUNICIPALITY WANTS DATA ON ELECTRIC-LIGHT PLANT.

[Consul General Alfred A. Winslow, Auckland, New Zealand, Sept. 19.]

The town clerk of Dannevirke, New Zealand, has made application, on behalf of the members of the borough council, for full particulars, with estimates, of the most suitable schemes for providing an electric-lighting plant capable of supplying a place of about 6,000 inhabitants. This offers an opening for American electrical machinery and supplies—lines that in the past have been coming largely from Europe. Communications should be addressed to "The Town Clerk, Dannebirke, New Zealand."

VENEZUELA INCREASES INTEREST IN FIBER PRODUCTION.

[Consul Homer Brett, La Guaira, Oct. 3.]

Caracas newspapers announce the installation of machinery for the preparation of agave fiber on the San Antonio Plantation of Gen. Gabriel A. Laclé near Coro. It is said that more than 1,000,000 plants on this estate have reached the productive stage.

Plants of the agave family grow wild in many parts of Venezuela, and there are enormous areas of very low-priced land on which it is thought they could be cultivated with profit. There is a native household industry of small proportions in the production of "cocuiza" fiber, from which cordage, hammocks, and bags are made.

The Fabrica Nacional de Cordeleria, Caracas, for several years had a contract with the Government by which, in return for the admission duty-free of sisal fiber, the company was obligated to import sisal plants and to instruct agriculturists in their cultivation.

The hope is expressed that the development of a fiber industry in Venezuela is at last under way. The Government of the neighboring island of Curaçao, Netherlands West Indies, has made strong efforts to establish the cultivation of sisal in that colony.

[Previous articles on Government encouragement for fiber production in Venezuela were published in COMMERCE REPORTS for Jan. 13, 1910, and Nov. 20, 1915.]

MINERAL EXPORTS FROM SPANISH MOROCCO.

[Consul General Carl Bailey Hurst, Barcelona, Spain, Oct. 1.]

Recently published statistics show the amounts of mineral exports of the four leading mining companies engaged in exploiting the mineral resources of the Spanish Zone in Morocco.

The Compañía Española de Minas del Rif exported, in 1914, 6,061 tons of hematite; in 1915 this company together with the Compañía del Norte Africano, La Alcantina, and Sociedad Anonima Sotolazar exported 87,957 tons of minerals, consisting of 83,125 tons of hematite, 4,128 tons of galena, and 700 tons of calamine. In 1916 the exports of these four companies amounted to 203,853 tons, consisting of 199,624 tons of hematite and 4,229 tons of galena. Freight difficulties have impeded shipments during the present year, but production has continued to increase. During the first six months of 1917, the export of minerals by these four companies amounted to 120,943 tons.

RESULTS OF WHALING OPERATIONS.

[Consul R. B. Mosher, Victoria, British Columbia, Canada, Oct. 30.]

The entire whaling fleet of the Victoria Whaling Co. has finished work for the 1917 season, and has put up for the winter at the company's dock in Victoria.

The total catch for all vessels for the season is about 400 whales, which represents the work done at three stations, namely, Kyuquot, Sechart, and Rose Harbor.

The Victoria Whaling Co. maintains a plant at Bay City, Washington, at which station four whalers are operated. This station reports a catch for the year 1917 of 200 whales, which in connection with the 400 whales caught in British Columbia makes a total of 600 whales for the Victoria Whaling Co. for the 1917 season.

WHARF LEASED AT SWANSEA FOR PETROLEUM SHIPMENTS.

[Consul M. K. Morehead, Swansea, Wales, Oct. 17.]

The Swansea Harbor Trust has made an agreement with the Anglo-Persian Oil Co. for a lease by the latter of a wharf at Kings Dock, Swansea, covering about 4,400 square yards, for the importation and exportation of petroleum. The oil company has guaranteed to the harbor trust a minimum rental of £10,000 (\$48,665) per annum. It is estimated, however, that the income of the harbor trust, through harbor dues and other charges against vessels of the Anglo-Persian Oil Co. which come to Swansea, will approximate £40,000 (\$194,660) per annum. The lease is for 99 years.

Company Proposes to Erect Refinery.

As stated in a former report, the Anglo-Persian Oil Co. proposes to erect a refinery at Skewen. The crude oil would be pumped there through a pipe line and then returned to the wharf for shipment.

When necessary, oil-burning ships can obtain their supplies of fuel in the Mumbles Roads by means of barges. This will make it unnecessary for vessels to await the tide in order to enter the docks for fuel supplies, and much time will be saved by vessels which come to Swansea only for bunker oil. It is therefore quite probable that Swansea in the future will become one of the leading centers in the United Kingdom for imports and exports of petroleum.

[The previous article on the refinery at Swansea was published in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for Sept. 22, 1917.]

AGRICULTURAL BOARD WANTS CATALOGUES AND REPORTS.

[Consul John R. Silliman, Guadalajara, Jalisco, Mexico.]

The Board of Agriculture of the State of Jalisco maintains an office, with secretary, staff, and reading room, in a central location in the city of Guadalajara. The association, which is composed of the principal agriculturalists, stock raisers, and fruit growers of Jalisco, would be pleased to receive catalogues, agricultural reports, and other publications from the United States. The attention of dealers in implements and machinery adapted to general agriculture (including sugar and coffee production), motors, and farm tractors, and of nurserymen, horticulturists, schools, and colleges is invited to this request. The address is: "Camara Agricola, Guadalajara, Jalisco, Mexico."

MONETARY SYSTEM OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC.

[Consul Arthur McLean, Puerto Plata, Oct. 19.]

In 1897 the United States gold dollar was adopted as the standard of value of the Dominican Republic.

United States gold and silver coins and bills constitute the principal medium of exchange. In addition, however, there is estimated to be about 5,000,000 pesos of metal coin of Dominican coinage in circulation, which passes at a fixed exchange of 5 to 1; that is, 1 peso equals 20 cents United States currency. Besides the peso there are Dominican coins of 2½, 5, 10, 20, and 50 centavos, valued at ½, 1, 2, 4, and 10 cents, respectively.

There are no Dominican gold coins or paper money in circulation.

BRITISH WOOL NOTES.

[Vice Consul Hamilton C. Claiborne, Bradford, Oct. 16.]

Collection of the British Clip.

At a recent meeting of the Central Advisory Committee on Wool Purchase for England and Wales for the 1917 season the controller of wool supplies announced that the year's return had been highly satisfactory. Normally the collection of the clip entails nine months whereas this year 91 per cent of the clip has already been dealt with in England, and the Scotch and Welsh clips, while delayed owing to lateness of shearing, are being expedited in collection. The Weekly Wool Chart states that during the first 15 weeks of the scheme 69,600,000 pounds of wool were purchased and payment made to the grower, an increase of 19,000,000 pounds over the corresponding period of 1916. The census return registered 140,355 growers of wool, all of whom were dealt with individually by the department. Of these, 113,444, or 81 per cent, have already received final payment.

Purchase of South African Clip.

Much interest is manifested in the statement in the Yorkshire Observer that the Government is conducting negotiations toward purchasing the South African clip on terms similar to those applying to Australasian supplies. There is also much comment in the local press over the announcement that the ministry of reconstruction has appointed a committee "to consider and report upon questions connected with the supplies of raw materials which will be required by British industries for the purpose of restoring and developing trade after the termination of the war, and the best means of securing and distributing supplies, due regard being had to the interests of the allies."

Nine Months' Statistical Return.

Figures taken from the Board of Trade statistical returns show that during the nine months ended September 30, 1917, the value of the manufactures of wool exported from the United Kingdom totaled \$194,085,154, an increase of \$25,753,742 as compared with the corresponding period of last year, and an increase of \$78,306,788 over the January-September figures of two years ago.

RUSSIAN REGULATIONS REGARDING USE OF SUGAR.

[Translation by Commercial Agent E. B. Thomas, Petrograd, from Messenger of the Provisional Government, Sept. 18.]

The Russian Ministry of Supply has sent out a circular to all the Governments of the country, explaining the order of the Provisional Government of August 11, concerning the manufacture of confectionery. The circular points out that the regulatory order refers only to products manufactured from beet or cane sugar. Sweets prepared from molasses (potato or refined), or from nuts, apples, etc., may, as formerly, be freely manufactured and placed on the market without price regulation.

The circular also points out that in making jam, preserves, and fruit and other drinks, the law of August 4 permits the use of saccharin for the duration of the war, on condition that the saccharin be chemically pure and that all products in whose manufacture saccharin has been used be properly so labeled.

EARNINGS OF SWEDISH COMPANIES.

[Vice Consul Arthur E. J. Reilly, Stockholm, Oct. 1.]

The Swedish Tobacco Monopoly (A. B. Svenska Tobaksmonopolet) reports for 1916 a net profit of \$2,081,769, as compared with \$613,871 for June-December, 1915 (the company started on June 1, 1915). The dividend was raised to 26½ per cent, taking \$1,278,360 on the ordinary shares, that is, those owned by the State, as compared with only 6 per cent for 1915. The dividend on the preference shares is raised from 6 to 8½ per cent, taking \$387,260. Besides this, the reserve fund received \$214,400 and the pension fund \$174,200.

Operations of the Swedish Telephone Co.

A. B. L. M. Ericsson & Co. (the Swedish Telephone Co.) shows for 1916 a net profit of \$664,781, as compared with \$626,539 for 1915. The shareholders receive, as before, 10 per cent, taking \$364,480, and the remainder is carried, as usual, to the contingency fund. The goods delivered by the Stockholm factory amounted to \$3,341,960 (\$2,639,800 in 1915 and \$2,130,000 in 1914). Of this total, exports amounted to \$2,505,800 (\$2,245,840 in 1915 and \$1,873,320 in 1914). The competition on the foreign market has been very keen. The receipts from the subsidiary companies have risen considerably. Both the Austrian and the Hungarian companies have raised their dividends from 2 per cent to 12 per cent. The Mexican company reports increased sales. The American subsidiary concern has been reconstructed. The Finnish company, which was being organized at the outbreak of the war, has not been able to develop any further.

Increased Profits of Copper-Mining Co.

Stora Kopparbergs Bergslags A. B. (copper-mining company) had for 1916 a record balance sheet. The net profit practically trebled, increasing from \$1,235,199 to \$3,347,324. That is, the company earned a net profit of more than the whole share capital of \$3,216,000. The good results for 1916 are in the main due to the Falun copper mine and also to the production of timber, wood pulp, and paper, whereas, contrary to what might have been expected, the iron manufacture at Domnarvet yielded a smaller profit than in 1915, due principally to the scarcity of coke.

Satisfactory Year for Electric Co.

Allmänna Svenska Elektriska Aktiebolaget (General Swedish Electric Co.), the largest Swedish firm in the electrical industry, had a very good year in 1916. The net profits amounted to \$3,343,173, or very nearly three times those of 1915, when the net profit was \$1,238,252. In 1914 the net profit was \$588,896. The dividend has been fixed at 20 per cent, taking \$1,447,200. The turnover in 1916 amounted to \$10,580,640, as against \$7,040,400 in 1915 and \$5,520,800 in 1914. The exports had a value of \$2,923,880, as compared with \$1,956,400 and \$1,415,040, respectively, in the two preceding years. The orders in hand at the close of the year amounted to \$4,789,160, as compared with \$2,682,680 in 1915 and \$1,768,800 in 1914.

During the past year Asea has acquired the control of Nya Förenade Elektriska A. B., Svenska Turbin Fabriks Aktiebolaget Ljungström, Surahammars Bruks Aktiebolag, and Aktiebolaget Liljeholmens Kabelfabrik.

Bank Fusion.

An agreement has recently been made whereby Orebro Enskilda Bank is to be absorbed by the largest bank in Sweden, Skandinaviska Kredit AB. The Orebro Bank has a paid-up capital of \$1,340,000 and total funds of \$2,492,400. Skandinaviska Kredit AB. has recently resolved on a fresh issue of capital and to absorb AB. Sveriges Privata Centralbank, with which in turn Nordiska Kreditbanken has been amalgamated. After the completion of all these transactions, Skandinaviska Kredit AB. will have a share capital of \$20,142,000. The total sums on deposit with the Scandinavian bank and with the banks it is to absorb was \$116,580,000 on the last day of April, and the total turnover was \$221,000,000.

SUCCESSFUL USE OF FIBER CONTAINERS.

The use of fiber containers in marketing various food products has greatly increased because of the shortage of tin plate. The principal question raised concerns the kinds of products that can be successfully marketed in such containers. The Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce has been advised by a manufacturer that the following-named articles have been successfully handled by the users of its fiber containers: Sirups that do not ferment; jellies, jams, marmalades; honey; salted nuts; marshmallow products known under trade names such as marshmallow whip, mallo topping, and the like (these products to be used for soda-fountain trade, household use, etc.); marshmallows; hard candies; chocolate-coated confections; sugar butter (spread for bread); malted milk; glacé fruit; shoe whitening; cocoa; and spices.

The following-named products can be placed in temporary or carrying-out fiber containers: Milk, cream, mincemeat, peanut butter, and oysters.

The following-named articles may be packed in fiber containers for a short length of time: Cottage cheese and other soft curd cheeses, lard, pickled fish, sausage meat, horseradish, sauerkraut, ice cream, and various delicatessen products, and soda-fountain supplies.

Another use for the fiber containers is as measures for dried products, such as crackers, small cakes, salted peanuts, and candies.

One concern has reported that it has an order for fiber containers to be used for holding a liquid chemical fire extinguisher.

HIGH PRICE OF FOOTWEAR IN NEW ZEALAND.

[Consul General Alfred A. Winslow, Auckland, Oct. 6.]

The cost of footwear in New Zealand has increased very greatly during the past three years. A pair of shoes that cost 15s. (\$3.65) in July, 1914, now costs 26s. 6d. (\$6.45), and the prices continue to advance. The advance in prices applies to both the imported and the locally manufactured article, which means that the workingman's shoe carries practically the same relative increased cost as the high-grade shoe.

Because of the excessive cost of footwear much more attention is being paid to keeping shoes in repair, and this means a much greater demand for cobblers' supplies and extras.

SEPTEMBER EXPORTS OF BREADSTUFFS, OILS, MEAT, ETC.

The usual monthly bulletin showing exports of domestic breadstuffs, cottonseed oil, meat, and dairy products, cotton, and mineral oils, from the principal customs districts of the United States has just been completed by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, Department of Commerce. It shows exports as follows for September and the nine months ended September:

Exports by groups and principal articles.	September—		9 months ended September—	
	1917	1916	1917	1916
EXPORTS BY GROUPS.				
Breadstuffs.....dollars..	28,365,994	38,077,100	447,464,312	325,508,806
Cottonseed oil.....pounds..	4,064,387	8,415,661	114,257,236	150,643,732
Meat and dairy products.....dollars..	697,899	956,897	15,563,372	15,019,626
Cotton.....bales..	24,453,520	22,639,744	283,977,725	199,455,579
Mineral oils.....pounds..	454,147	539,679	3,392,619	4,734,542
.....dollars..	238,376,001	284,039,622	1,743,736,670	2,438,858,316
.....dollars..	59,494,408	44,547,302	372,738,458	324,412,909
.....dollars..	200,687,435	266,566,822	1,894,162,073	1,960,641,864
.....dollars..	16,977,054	20,987,053	171,887,707	155,215,048
Total.....dollars..	129,987,875	127,208,096	1,291,631,575	1,019,611,908
EXPORTS BY PRINCIPAL ARTICLES.				
Corn.....bushels..	980,074	3,761,131	46,500,370	44,476,490
.....dollars..	1,919,067	3,611,553	61,788,358	37,917,126
Oats.....bushels..	4,644,413	6,176,101	64,345,621	79,145,301
.....dollars..	3,391,731	3,297,804	47,090,166	40,093,582
Wheat.....bushels..	2,612,762	13,108,248	91,418,812	113,312,453
.....dollars..	6,158,527	20,804,453	212,213,444	162,563,430
Flour.....barrels..	1,015,293	1,122,611	8,892,748	11,470,472
.....pounds..	10,882,351	6,984,055	84,289,223	64,682,587
Beef, canned.....pounds..	1,942,235	3,577,899	50,365,227	39,092,886
.....dollars..	628,109	828,742	13,461,906	8,721,775
Beef, fresh.....pounds..	20,979,140	6,676,348	185,787,186	138,242,760
.....dollars..	2,973,199	830,712	27,365,378	17,127,511
Beef, pickled, etc.....pounds..	4,634,024	2,480,751	52,289,766	22,988,043
.....dollars..	547,152	264,720	6,343,048	2,486,411
Oleo oil.....pounds..	3,556,037	10,494,734	31,517,439	65,041,982
.....dollars..	657,239	1,408,405	6,354,835	8,509,397
Bacon.....pounds..	35,500,739	49,222,977	463,181,341	428,849,280
.....dollars..	8,344,049	7,860,608	91,907,781	60,839,919
Hams and shoulders.....pounds..	16,496,415	17,424,425	181,595,724	211,739,659
.....dollars..	3,960,640	2,988,959	37,548,919	31,995,638
Lard.....pounds..	22,145,235	32,707,088	321,329,104	327,785,344
.....dollars..	4,884,534	4,662,553	62,312,119	40,480,565
Neutral lard.....pounds..	28,437	2,368,775	9,088,096	23,320,545
.....dollars..	7,252	351,520	1,926,129	2,999,993
Pork, pickled, etc.....pounds..	5,133,532	4,337,701	76,747,007	87,878,886
.....dollars..	1,130,066	559,274	14,129,400	10,313,209
Lard compounds.....pounds..	2,127,855	3,821,761	38,754,110	35,898,691
.....dollars..	402,654	459,417	6,439,868	4,039,440
Crude oil.....gallons..	10,839,854	16,884,577	119,338,112	129,098,964
.....dollars..	469,897	647,081	5,311,808	5,643,901
Illuminating oil.....gallons..	29,665,750	88,671,236	486,062,230	638,857,969
.....dollars..	2,578,629	5,618,561	35,090,893	42,814,875
Lubricating oil.....gallons..	20,428,965	23,814,936	199,983,904	205,930,009
.....dollars..	4,096,455	3,949,699	38,345,766	33,382,480
Gasoline, naphtha, etc.....gallons..	20,079,759	38,328,029	291,681,108	278,817,556
.....dollars..	4,645,955	8,017,349	63,369,997	53,729,815
Residuum, fuel oil, etc.....gallons..	119,653,107	98,868,044	795,196,719	707,337,366
.....dollars..	5,186,118	2,754,363	29,763,243	19,643,977

ORGANIZATION OF SPANISH IMPORTERS IN FRANCE.

[Espana Económica y Financiera, Madrid, Oct. 13.]

There has been formed in Paris the Association of Spanish Importers, the purpose of which is to promote and protect the interests of Spanish exporters to France. This association will shortly call a meeting in Madrid or Valencia of all Spanish exporters with connections in France.

MOVEMENT OF COAL AND COKE.

The movement of coal and coke over 13 leading eastern railroads during August and eight months ending August, 1916 and 1917, follows:

AUGUST.

Classes and railroads.	Originating on line.		Received from connecting carriers.		Total.	
	1916	1917	1916	1917	1916	1917
FOR REVENUE ONLY.						
Anthracite:	<i>Short tons.</i>	<i>Short tons.</i>	<i>Short tons.</i>	<i>Short tons.</i>	<i>Short tons.</i>	<i>Short tons.</i>
Baltimore & Ohio.....			114,456	128,982	114,456	128,982
Buffalo, Rochester & Pittsburgh.....			7,507	23,673	7,507	23,673
Buffalo & Susquehanna.....			110	277	110	277
Chesapeake & Ohio.....	191	68	1,550	367	1,741	435
Erie.....	671,601	846,141	101,458	195,149	773,059	1,041,290
Huntingdon & Broad Top Mountain.....			35	51	35	51
Pennsylvania.....	444,574	526,287	556,624	347,743	1,001,198	874,030
Pittsburgh & Lake Erie.....			40	91	40	91
Pittsburg, Shawmut & Northern.....			1,165	1,011	1,165	1,011
Virginian.....	42	527	801		343	527
Western Maryland.....			28,702	48,859	28,702	48,859
Total.....	1,116,408	1,373,023	812,115	746,036	1,928,523	2,119,059
Bituminous:						
Baltimore & Ohio.....	2,633,747	2,601,477	519,369	600,876	3,153,116	3,202,353
Buffalo, Rochester & Pittsburgh.....	865,064	933,071	1,943	2,290	867,027	935,361
Buffalo & Susquehanna.....	140,483	150,727		245	140,483	150,972
Chesapeake & Ohio.....	2,103,279	2,306,836	223,069	128,690	2,326,348	2,434,526
Erie.....	16,686	19,392	707,230	600,443	723,916	619,835
Huntingdon & Broad Top Mountain.....	90,104	96,426	30,387	31,112	120,491	127,538
New York Central (Buffalo and east).....	628,167	760,611			628,167	760,611
Norfolk & Western.....	2,261,084	2,137,386	519,917	606,381	2,781,001	2,743,767
Pennsylvania.....	3,812,502	3,753,018	480,125	660,392	4,292,627	4,413,410
Pittsburgh & Lake Erie.....	678,783	625,160	490,144	417,592	1,168,927	1,042,742
Pittsburg, Shawmut & Northern.....	269,806	106,894	576		270,382	106,894
Virginian.....	400,572	504,038	61,767	69,827	462,339	573,865
Western Maryland.....	333,913	464,831	530,725	306,677	864,638	771,508
Total.....	14,234,210	14,458,857	3,565,252	3,424,525	17,799,462	17,883,382
FOR COMPANY FUEL.						
Anthracite:						
Erie.....	18,860	10,928			18,860	10,928
Pennsylvania.....	8,808	20,932	11,557	10,289	20,455	31,221
Total.....	27,758	31,860	11,557	10,289	39,315	42,149
Bituminous:						
Baltimore & Ohio.....	458,256	533,853	17,541	10,647	475,797	544,500
Buffalo, Rochester & Pittsburgh.....	57,711	63,146			57,711	63,146
Buffalo & Susquehanna.....	9,114	8,074			9,114	8,074
Chesapeake & Ohio.....	168,381	164,367			168,381	164,367
Erie.....	115,432	127,006	163,952	278,615	279,384	405,621
Huntingdon & Broad Top Mountain.....	2,438	3,361			2,438	3,361
New York Central (Buffalo and east).....	206,514	140,492			206,514	140,492
Norfolk & Western.....	222,593	207,900	43,346	36,430	265,939	244,330
Pennsylvania.....	597,631	735,752	12	40,614	597,643	776,366
Pittsburgh & Lake Erie.....	29,932	45,562	6,655		36,587	45,562
Pittsburg, Shawmut & Northern.....	10,041	5,057			10,041	5,067
Virginian.....	29,000	26,267	246	4,047	29,246	30,314
Western Maryland.....	49,807	42,404	278	12,948	50,085	55,352
Total.....	1,966,850	2,108,241	232,030	383,301	2,188,880	2,486,542

AUGUST—Continued.

Coke and railroads.	Originating on line.		Received from com- peting carrier.		Total.	
	1916	1917	1916	1917	1916	1917
COKE FOR REVENUE AND FUEL.						
Baltimore & Ohio.....	Short tons. 290,279	Short tons. 250,599	Short tons. 65,584	Short tons. 19,924	Short tons. 354,963	Short tons. 300,514
Buffalo, Rochester & Pitts- burgh.....	29,414	25,533	14,689	15,251	44,103	40,784
Buffalo & Susquehanna.....	38,729	34,988	8,906	7,743	38,729	34,988
Chesapeake & Ohio.....	34,755	28,579	121,819	67,519	43,614	37,322
Erie.....					121,819	67,519
Huntingdon & Broad Top Mountain.....	5,921	5,643	102	130	9,022	5,813
Norfolk & Western.....	172,770	178,741	7,230	16,468	174,000	195,548
Pennsylvania.....	924,121	721,858	243,758	278,493	1,172,884	995,751
Pittsburgh & Lake Erie.....	92,265	80,448	563,942	574,581	658,237	655,029
Western Maryland.....	6,543	7,095	6,739	11,217	13,182	18,222
Total.....	1,576,782	1,334,224	1,040,772	1,017,066	2,617,554	2,351,290

EIGHT MONTHS ENDING AUGUST.

FOR REVENUE ONLY.						
Anthracite:	Short tons.	Short tons.	Short tons.	Short tons.	Short tons.	Short tons.
Baltimore & Ohio.....			973,240	1,274,283	973,240	1,274,283
Buffalo, Rochester & Pitts- burgh.....			109,312	175,070	109,312	175,070
Buffalo & Susquehanna.....			4,282	2,665	4,282	2,665
Chesapeake & Ohio.....	748	756	8,545	5,780	9,733	6,606
Erie.....	5,323,026	6,065,354	995,148	1,589,714	6,318,174	7,655,068
Huntingdon & Broad Top Mountain.....			465	601	465	601
Pennsylvania.....	3,865,474	4,131,017	3,901,274	3,305,160	7,766,748	7,436,177
Pittsburgh & Lake Erie			594	1,346	594	1,346
Pittsburgh, Shawmut & Northern.....			8,484	7,853	8,484	7,853
Virginian.....	186	1,292	2,403	1,615	2,589	2,907
Western Maryland.....			225,030	353,030	225,301	353,030
Total.....	9,189,434	10,198,419	6,229,488	6,717,187	15,418,922	16,915,606
Bituminous:						
Baltimore & Ohio.....	19,257,628	19,511,504	4,504,059	4,741,472	23,761,687	24,252,976
Buffalo, Rochester & Pitts- burgh.....	6,170,071	6,632,469	25,425	57,045	6,195,496	6,689,514
Buffalo & Susquehanna.....	1,092,148	1,048,011	126	1,777	1,092,274	1,049,788
Chesapeake & Ohio.....	16,584,635	16,147,721	1,649,337	1,193,637	18,234,032	17,341,358
Erie.....	111,577	200,005	5,567,335	5,570,244	5,709,212	5,776,249
Huntingdon & Broad Top Mountain.....	519,153	728,791	238,827	275,436	757,980	1,004,227
New York Central (Buffalo and east).....	5,185,046	5,654,825			5,185,046	5,654,825
Norfolk & Western.....	16,977,825	16,192,904	3,089,960	3,816,210	20,677,785	20,009,114
Pennsylvania.....	28,519,406	29,602,447	4,066,070	6,792,743	32,576,476	35,395,190
Pittsburgh & Lake Erie	3,909,667	4,356,555	3,400,490	3,255,676	7,310,157	7,612,231
Pittsburgh, Shawmut & Northern.....	2,013,156	968,935	4,486	140	2,017,642	969,035
Virginian.....	3,034,686	3,826,339	477,000	611,137	3,511,686	4,437,476
Western Maryland.....	2,411,603	3,401,356	3,114,138	2,689,736	5,555,741	6,091,092
Total.....	105,747,961	108,277,822	26,747,253	28,005,253	132,495,214	136,283,075
FOR COMPANY FUEL.						
Anthracite:						
Baltimore & Ohio.....			36	36		
Erie.....	128,542	133,396	145	96	128,727	133,404
Pennsylvania.....	89,488	176,943	122,373	89,112	211,961	266,055
Total.....	218,070	307,249	122,554	89,210	340,624	399,459
Bituminous:						
Baltimore & Ohio.....	3,837,222	4,099,251	116,143	103,335	3,953,365	4,202,586
Buffalo, Rochester & Pitts- burgh.....	479,459	325,585			479,459	325,586
Buffalo & Susquehanna.....	72,389	68,712			72,389	68,712
Chesapeake & Ohio.....	1,542,876	1,501,661			1,542,876	1,501,661

EIGHT MONTHS ENDING AUGUST—Continued.

Classes and railroads.	Originating on line.		Received from connecting carriers.		Total.	
	1916	1917	1916	1917	1916	1917
FOR COMPANY FUEL—CON.						
Bituminous—continued.	<i>Short tons.</i>	<i>Short tons.</i>	<i>Short tons.</i>	<i>Short tons.</i>	<i>Short tons.</i>	<i>Short tons.</i>
Erie.....	925,875	869,093	1,317,312	1,870,935	2,243,187	2,740,028
Huntingdon & Broad Top Mountain.....	22,152	25,680	.....	.....	22,152	25,680
New York Central (Buffalo and east).....	1,652,333	1,418,384	.....	.....	1,652,333	1,418,384
Norfolk & Western.....	1,785,618	1,840,256	344,204	366,903	2,129,822	2,207,159
Pennsylvania.....	5,288,904	5,322,000	711	188,123	5,289,615	5,510,123
Pittsburgh & Lake Erie.....	217,457	353,738	93,325	19,366	310,782	373,104
Pittsburg, Shawmut & Northern.....	91,396	45,841	.....	40	91,396	45,881
Virginian.....	203,631	218,855	751	47,442	203,782	266,297
Western Maryland.....	392,225	346,906	94,289	78,846	476,514	425,752
Total.....	16,500,937	16,635,966	1,968,735	2,674,990	18,467,672	19,310,956
COKE FOR REVENUE AND FUEL.						
Baltimore & Ohio.....	2,323,669	1,880,562	621,824	489,227	2,945,493	2,369,789
Buffalo, Rochester & Pittsburgh.....	265,274	202,990	108,075	108,076	373,349	311,066
Buffalo & Susquehanna.....	308,817	272,509	.....	.....	308,817	272,509
Chesapeake & Ohio.....	283,812	276,853	69,520	54,081	353,332	330,884
Erie.....	.....	.....	781,086	408,518	781,086	408,518
Huntingdon & Broad Top Mountain.....	53,027	44,350	4,207	4,992	57,234	49,342
Norfolk & Western.....	1,317,307	1,488,145	62,923	106,746	1,381,230	1,594,891
Pennsylvania.....	7,533,172	6,013,781	2,149,064	2,133,106	9,682,236	8,146,887
Pittsburgh & Lake Erie.....	745,675	733,492	4,683,147	4,258,071	5,438,822	4,991,563
Pittsburg, Shawmut & Northern.....	.....	.....	70	19	70	19
Virginian.....	.....	.....	30	100	30	100
Western Maryland.....	60,841	60,002	36,421	112,993	97,262	172,995
Total.....	12,863,594	10,972,684	8,527,367	7,675,929	21,420,961	18,648,613

PACKING OF AMERICAN TIN-PLATE SHIPMENTS.

[Consul General Alfred L. M. Gottschalk, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Oct. 5.]

In the course of surveying damaged American cargoes to which objection had been raised here, attention was called to the manner in which certain shipments of tin plate arrived at Rio de Janeiro from the United States. In two shipments which were recently examined, one consisting of 2,000 and the other of 450 cases, 600 cases were found to be damaged in the first instance, and 113 in the other.

Tin plate arrives from the United States in lots of 112 sheets, which are packed in cases of very thin wood, only slightly hooped with light iron bands. This does not provide protection against rough handling while cargo is being discharged, and often a case is broken, and the sheets it contains are bent, rusted, or otherwise made unsalable. In the two instances cited the number of cases damaged was well over 25 per cent of the total.

The surveyor, Mr. Charles Filiberti, suggests that sufficient protection against such accidents could be provided by running an additional band or hoop of soft iron around the center of each case and thus preventing the boards from coming apart.

It would seem safer if the cases themselves were made of a heavier, stronger wood.

TSINGTAU A CENTER FOR CHINESE CATTLE TRADE.

[Translation from "Products of Shantung," issued by the Imperial Japanese Military Administration of Tsingtau, forwarded by Consul Willys R. Peck, Tsingtau, China.]

The discovery of Shantung cattle by the world at large as fine beef cattle dates back to the time when the Russian Government exported them to Port Arthur and Dairen, through Chefoo, for use as provisions. Ever since then their reputation has steadily been enhanced, and the export of Shantung cattle to Vladivostok, Manchuria, Tientsin, and Shanghai by the Tientsin-Pukow Railway and via the ports of Tsingtau and Chefoo has been on the increase. Prior to the German-Japanese war the number of cattle shipped out of the Province in the shape of both live animals and beef reached approximately 75,000 head. Recently the International Export Co., a British firm, has undertaken their export to England by the railway mentioned via Pukow, and besides this other exporters are engaged in the Shantung cattle trade with Japan, the Philippines, and other places in the south.

Stock farming in Shantung is not yet by any means in a state of modern improvement, yet it has the oldest history of development in China. Nearly 3,000 years ago, according to Chinese history, the Shantung farmers had been taught the profitable occupations of stock farming, gathering salt, and fishing. We can safely presume that the industry of cattle raising always has been looked upon as a very important one in Shantung down to the present time.

Raised Throughout the Province.

Throughout the Province one will see cattle raised everywhere. Laichow, Ichow, Tsaochow, Tungchang, Tsinan, and Tsining especially are noted places of production. According to the result of investigations that have been made by a certain firm during the past five years, the present number of cattle within the Province, with the exception of calves, is approximately as follows: In portions of the Shantung peninsula, Tengchow, Laichow, and Kiaochow, 120,000 head; in the middle and western portion of the Province, 480,000 head; total, 600,000 head.

Generally speaking Shantung cattle are large in build. The ox usually weighs from 600 to 1,000 catties (catty=1.33 pounds), with well-developed loins and legs, which almost form a rectangle in shape. Judging from the fact that they have a comparatively thin hide and lustrous hair, and have a tendency to early growth and fattening, we can pretty safely infer that they are not pure bred, but of improved species. Although they are called Shantung cattle, there is no doubt that they are the product of Central China. That is to say, they gradually migrated eastward from Honan, Shansi, Shensi, and Kansu, which are situated in the center of continental China. The Yellow River, which passes through these territories, makes the vicinity of its watercourse unfit for cultivation by the tremendous overflow of the river which takes place every year. In consequence this district forms one vast natural pasture with thick weeds. Any traveler going through there will notice a thriving industry of cattle raising. As the territories whence Shantung cattle come cover vast areas, naturally the number of cattle available may be said to be almost limitless.

Variations in Feed According to Seasons.

In the country districts 30 to 60 head in one small village are not uncommon. Every farmer keeps 5 or 6 head which usually are taken care of by one coolie. Cattle are fed three times daily in the busiest season of farming. The amount of feed per day is about 18 catties of hay or straw and 8 catties of mixed feeds. In other seasons, when farming is not in full swing, they are fed twice daily, requiring in all about 16 catties of straw and 4 catties of mixed feed. The straw used for the feed is mostly of millet, but wheat straw also is used. In the vicinity of Tanghsien dry peanut stems and sweet-potato vines are used. The mixed feed mentioned is composed of kaoliang, beans, etc., which are mixed with cut-up straw or hay and water.

In the time of German administration of Tsingtau efforts were made to improve cattle. They always kept some of foreign breed in the slaughterhouse, and with them they undertook to better Chinese cattle. When calves which were born were good and promising ones, the authorities used to buy them. All the cows in that compound had metal tags with their numbers attached in their ears. When they were 1 year old they were placed in an exhibition. Prizes were awarded to good cows, which later were bred to foreign animals. By means of such encouragement and other methods the improvement of cattle in this district was induced.

From the time the Russian Government began to export cattle from Chefoo the quantity increased yearly until 1904, when the customs returns there announced the number exported as more than 2,000 head. In 1909 the shipments were chiefly to Vladivostok, and the total to all points embraced 3,500 head and 29,000 piculs of beef (picul = 133½ pounds). The exports from Tsingtau were started after those from Chefoo; that is, after the Russo-Japanese War. Shipments from Tsingtau, however, have steadily increased every year on account of the advantageous situation of this port with respect to the places of production and to Vladivostok in point of shipping facilities, and on account of the adequate equipment of the slaughterhouse here. Just before the outbreak of the German-Japanese war the annual exports reached a considerable amount—more than 28,000 head of cattle and more than 87,000 piculs of beef, the greater part of which was exported to Vladivostok.

Shipments from Two Ports Compared.

Figures have been prepared showing the cattle and beef exports from Tsingtau and Chefoo from 1908 to 1914. Those from Tsingtau in 1914 were up to the opening of the war—seven months. The statistics are:

	1908	1909	1910	1911	1912	1913	1914
Cattle:							
Tsingtau.....head..	3,202	3,399	3,723	5,835	16,665	28,413	17,542
Chefoo.....do.....	6,566	3,501	2,467	4,064	362	96	66
Beef:							
Tsingtau.....piculs..				7,535	12,622	87,007	56,383
Chefoo.....do.....	8,784	29,325	10,129	778	3,318		

The German railway policy and the establishment of a slaughterhouse in Tsingtau almost completely deprived Chefoo of its exports of cattle and brought them all to the rival port. When the war was

declared exports from Tsingtau temporarily came to a standstill, and in consequence the number of Shantung cattle exported to Vladivostok by way of Chinwangtao through Tientsin increased. After the occupation of this port by the Japanese Army cattle exports were resumed.

Slaughtering and Refrigerating Plant.

The International Export Co. has established a slaughtering and refrigerating plant in Nanking, and is shipping Shantung cattle to Nanking by way of the Tientsin-Pukow Railway. The beef is sent to England in a steamer with a refrigerating equipment. The exports of the firm have not yet exceeded 2,000 head, but it seems that it is contemplating larger shipments in the future.

At present Shantung cattle are shipped not only to Vladivostok and Manchuria but also to Europe, Philippines, and other foreign countries. Thus they are beginning to assume an aspect of international importance. Tsingtau occupies the most convenient position for such shipments in Shantung, and its exports of cattle will thrive year by year. With its fine and spacious slaughterhouse it will make further study of the business of exporting Shantung cattle, which is becoming now one of the world products.

The largest market for the collection and distribution of cattle in Shantung is Tsinan. Those which are sent there for sale every day reach a number from several hundred to more than 1,000. They are turned over to cattle merchants there, through whom they are bought and sold. The merchants have equipments to care for 100 up to 500 head. They are priced according to weight, and the weighing yard is under the Commercial Area Bureau. The fee for weighing is 20 cents silver per head.

In several places in Shantung there are what they call "cattle markets," where it is customary to establish certain dates for the sale of cattle. On such days cattle are brought to the market not only from the neighboring villages, but also from localities 50 miles away. Transactions between buyers and sellers are made there. It is also customary in a large city to have a cattle market where they are bought and sold. Exporters of live stock have compradors of their own, and when such exporters want to purchase cattle they order their compradors to collect the desired number within a stated time limit. These compradors buy through brokers who are under their management.

Prevention of Cattle Diseases.

The cattle that are to be slaughtered in the Tsingtau slaughterhouse and exported in the shape of beef usually are brought directly into Tsingtau. Those that are exported as live animals are subject to examination for the prevention of cattle diseases. The Russian Government has now dispatched several veterinary doctors for the purpose and established a cattle-injection station in Chengyang, where all the cattle bought and shipped from the interior are sent. After the injection they are held in a detention yard, which is provided for the purpose, for a period of 21 days. If they are found to be free from any disease they are allowed to be shipped out of Tsingtau.

Cattle exports from Tsingtau during the months September to December, 1915, amounted to 3,972 head, of which 8 were shipped to

Japan, 3,165 to Vladivostok, 299 to Dairen, and 500 to other places. Beef exports during the same period amounted to 7,367 quarters, of which 391 went to Japan, 6,616 to Vladivostok, and 360 to Dairen.

The export duty is 5 per cent ad valorem, the value of one head being taken at \$50 silver and the flesh alone at \$35. The wharfage is \$0.20 per head and \$0.04 per picul of 133½ pounds.

[A discussion of the position of Tsingtau as a port of shipment for beef appeared in COMMERCE REPORTS for Sept. 13, 1915.]

HOUSING PROBLEM IN BRADFORD AND GLASGOW.

[Vice Consul Hamilton C. Clalborne, Bradford, England, Oct. 11.]

The Local Government Board, anticipating the era of reconstruction that must follow the war, are making an inquiry of local authorities throughout the country as to their housing needs. The Bradford health committee has stated that the city's needs, after the war, will be at least 10,000 houses.

In view of the governmental restrictions upon building during the war and the movement of industrial laborers to centers of war industry, the housing problem is an acute one, and conditions in Bradford are said to be not dissimilar from those in other large industrial centers.

The great demand for houses and the recent stagnation of building are believed to foreshadow a great demand for all kinds of building material at the conclusion of hostilities.

[Vice Consul Thomas H. Bevan, Glasgow, Scotland, Oct. 10.]

Report of Scottish Housing Commission.

The Royal Commission on Scottish Housing has just published its report on present housing conditions of the Glasgow district.

The report shows that the existing housing accommodation in the city, as regards houses of four apartments and under, amounts to 213,863; that the vacant houses number 2,071, the overcrowded or sublet houses 2,555, uninhabitable houses 5,000, and houses defective but remediable 5,000. Additional houses to the number of 46,700 are required at the present time and at least 5,000 in each succeeding year.

The view of the local authorities is that private enterprise, unaided, can not be expected to provide houses for the working classes at the close of the war. It has been reliably reported that the Government has already approved a plan to commence the construction of a large number of houses immediately after the conclusion of the war. The houses to be constructed are of the tenement class, each containing from 8 to 12 small flats.

OFFICES OF THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE.

DISTRICT OFFICES.

NEW YORK: 784 Customhouse.
BOSTON: 1801 Customhouse.
CHICAGO: 604 Federal Building.
ST. LOUIS: 402 Third National Bank Building.
NEW ORLEANS: 1020 Hibernia Bank Building.
SAN FRANCISCO: 807 Customhouse.
SEATTLE: 848 Henry Building.

COOPERATIVE OFFICES.

CLEVELAND: Chamber of Commerce.
CINCINNATI: Chamber of Commerce.
CINCINNATI: General Freight Agent, Southern Railway, 96 Ingalls Building.
LOS ANGELES: Chamber of Commerce.
PHILADELPHIA: Chamber of Commerce.
CHATTANOOGA: South American Agent, Southern Railway System.
PORTLAND, OREG.: Chamber of Commerce.
DAYTON: Greater Dayton Association.

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the Bureau and its district and cooperative offices. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and state opportunity number. The Bureau does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases. Symbols: * Reported by American consular officers; † Reported by commercial attachés and commercial agents; ‡ Direct inquiries received by the Bureau.

In considering the following "opportunities" special regard should be had to the laws and regulations governing export licenses and trading with the enemy.

Agricultural implements.....	25805, 25810	Insulating material.....	25803
Barbed wire.....	25805	Liquor.....	25805
Cement.....	25805	Machinery.....	25804
Chair seats.....	25806	Motor trucks.....	25804
Chemicals.....	25804	Oils.....	25805, 25809
Clothing.....	25805	Railroad supplies.....	25804
Cotton goods.....	25805	Rice.....	25805
Electrical appliances.....	25804, 25805	Rubber goods.....	25804
Flour.....	25805	Soldering and forging apparatus.....	25808
General merchandise.....	25804	Thermometers.....	25803
Glass, window.....	25807	Tools.....	25804, 25805
Hardware.....	25805	Typewriters, etc.....	25804

25803.*—A firm in Italy desires to purchase all porcelain and general insulating materials and accessories for electrical insulations and thermometers for medical, chemical, bath, radiator, and household use. These thermometers must be centigrade and must have figures and degrees plainly printed on the porcelain back and not on the glass. A sample of the kind of thermometer as well as a sample of an electric switch, may be examined at the bureau or its district offices. (Refer to file No. 92105.) Payment will be made against shipping documents through local banks. Correspondence should be in French or Italian.

25804.*—An agency is desired by an association in Switzerland for the sale of merchandise in general, especially chemicals, electrical appliances, motor trucks, motor-driven farm tractors, railroad supplies, rubber goods, typewriters and other office machinery, woodworking machinery, and tools. Quotations may be made f. o. b. New York. Account will be opened in New York bank for payment. Correspondence may be in English. References.

25805.*—A firm in the Dominican Republic desires to secure an agency for the sale of barbed wire, carpenters' tools, plows, general hardware, electrical goods, packed goods, lubricating oils, cement, rice, flour, cotton goods, ready-made clothes, wines, whisky, etc. Quotations should be made f. o. b. New York. Payment will be made by sight draft, 30 or 60 days. Correspondence may be in English. References.

25806.*—A merchant in Algeria wishes to purchase wooden chair seats in perforated designs or pyrographed and varnished with brush and stamp. Samples of seats and descriptive literature of same, such as are desired, may be examined at the bureau or its district offices. Reference.

25807.*—A company in China desires to purchase or secure an agency for the sale of window glass. The glass should be put up in cases containing 100 square feet. Quotations may be made f. o. b. Pacific coast port with estimate on ocean charges. Payment will be made by sight draft against documents or 60 days' credit. Complete information should be submitted so that goods can be ordered by cable if desired. Correspondence may be in English. References.

25808.*—A man in France is in the market for machines for forging and soldering calibered chains electrically. Correspondence may be in English, but French is preferred.

25809.*—An agency is desired by a man in Switzerland for the sale of coconut oil for food and industrial purposes. From 100 to 200 barrels are desired. Quotations should be made f. o. b. New York or other American port. Payment will be made by cash in New York by confirmed credit, against documents. Goods will be consigned through Swiss shipping company in New York. Correspondence may be in English. References.

25810.*—A firm in Italy wishes to purchase and secure an agency for the sale of mowers, autoploughs, and other agricultural implements. Estimate on freight rates to Genoa should accompany offers. Cash will be paid. Correspondence may be in English.

NOV 14 1917

COMMERCE REPORTS

PRINCETON, N. J.



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ISSUED DAILY BY THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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FURTHER INCREASE IN PRICE OF AMERICAN LARD IN ENGLAND.

[Cablegram from American consul general, London.]

My October 18. Food Controller again increases maximum wholesale prices of American lard. Prices now prevailing are: Pails, 136s. 3d.; boxes and tierces, 135s.; prime steam, 133s. [The cablegram of Oct. 18 was published in COMMERCE REPORTS for Oct. 22.]

BRITISH REQUIREMENTS CONCERNING TANNING MATERIALS.

[Cablegram from American consul general, London.]

War Office announces all importers of tanning materials must furnish weekly to Director of Raw Materials, Imperial House, Westminster, London, particulars as to quantities of tanning materials afloat either purchased or consigned unsold.

LICENSES FOR EXPORTATION OF TIN PLATE.

The War Trade Board, upon the recommendation of its Bureau of Imports and of the Committee on the Conservation of Tin Plate, has just made two additional rulings affecting the exportation of tin plate, which are set forth below in paragraphs (3) and (4), respectively, in the following list of such rulings, which is complete to date, and includes in paragraphs (1) and (2) the rulings promulgated on October 24, 1917. [Published in COMMERCE REPORTS for Oct. 25.]

Rulings Concerning Applications to Export Tin Plate.

(1) That no licenses will be granted for the exportation of tin plate for use for any other purpose than as food containers, except on satisfactory evidence that the plate will be used in such a way as

to contribute to the military needs of the nations at war with Germany and her allies.

(2) That, as to applications for license to export tin plate to be used as food containers, preference will be given to those cases in which satisfactory evidence is presented that the food to be packed will be for the use of the nations at war with Germany and her allies.

(3) That no licenses will be granted for the exportation of articles (other than tin plate) containing tin, except on satisfactory evidence that the goods will be used in such a way as to contribute to the military and other vital needs of the nations at war with Germany and her allies. Preference will be given to those cases in which satisfactory evidence is presented that the goods will be used in such a way as to contribute to the production or transportation of foodstuffs for the use of the nations at war with Germany and her allies.

(4) That no licenses for the exportation of tin plate will be granted, except to the manufacturers of the plate, or to others who, either at the time of making application or before shipment out of the country, present satisfactory evidence that they have purchased the plate from a manufacturer on firm order from a purchaser abroad. This rule applies to pending as well as to future applications.

SUPPLY OF SUGAR AT SAN LUIS POTOSÍ.

[Consul Cornelius Ferris, Jr., San Luis Potosí, Mexico, Oct. 30.]

It is estimated by the leading sugar merchants in San Luis Potosí that the stocks of sugar at present on hand in this city amount to about 85,000 kilos (187,400 pounds). This is some 100,000 kilos (220,400 pounds) less than the amount on hand two months ago. About half of this is refined granulated sugar. The remainder is crude sugar of three grades locally designated as piloncillo (small loaf), mascaboda (raw, unrefined), and pilon blanco (white loaf). The entire stock is of native production, except a small quantity of granulated sugar from Cuba, purchased from importers in Mexico City.

The lowest grade is the piloncillo, or small loaf. This is nothing more than the crude cane juice, boiled down and molded into small loaves after the molasses has been drawn off. It is dark brown, like maple sugar. This is the grade of sugar consumed by 90 per cent of the people. Mascaboda (muscovado) is the next grade. It comes in light-brown, stonelike lumps, which are broken up into small lumps as desired in the retail trade. The best grade of unrefined sugar is the pilon blanco, or "white" loaf. This is nearly white and comes in large loaves, suitable for retailing in greater bulk. The pilon blanco is a popular grade of sugar, the large size of the loaves making it easier to transport without waste by purchasers having some distance to go. On account of the great demand it is higher in price than refined sugar, although cheaper to produce. It is also preferred because it is considered sweeter and tastes of the pure cane.

Price Advances—Importation Necessary for First Time.

Between the month of May and the last of October of this year wholesale prices per kilo of 2.2046 pounds for the four grades of

sugar sold in San Luis Potosí have advanced as follows: Piloncillo, from 10 to 29 cents (U. S.); mascaboda, from 11 to 29 cents; pilon blanco, from 20 to 40 cents; white granulated, from 16 to 35 cents.

The sugar supply of San Luis Potosí, except an insignificant amount of refined granulated sugar, is produced in the neighboring States of Vera Cruz, Morelos, and Michoacan. Grading begins the first of the year and continues through April. The stock now on hand is the remainder of last spring's production. The entire State of San Luis Potosí is supplied from this city. The outlook for the 1918 production is not favorable, as the sugar haciendas are for the most part in districts infested with bandits who have turned their horses into the cane fields and otherwise discouraged industry. There will be some production, however, from a few haciendas that have been "protected" by bandit chiefs.

At this date local merchants have in transit 65,000 kilos (143,300 pounds) of sugar from the United States. Of this amount 6,000 kilos (13,200 pounds) are of the mascaboda grade. This is the first time it has been necessary to seek supplies abroad for local requirements. The shipments have been held up at Laredo pending applications for export licenses.

INCREASING EXPORTS OF VENEZUELAN ALPARGATAS.

[Consul Homer Brett, La Guaira, Oct. 12.]

The increased prices of boots and shoes, caused by the war, has brought about a small boom in the Venezuelan industry of manufacturing alpargatas. As made here, these are slippers or sandals with a leather sole and cloth upper, although they are also made with fiber soles as in Spain. A small demand for them has existed in the island of Trinidad for some time, and this has now spread to various other islands of the West Indies with the result that orders of considerable size are coming to Venezuelan manufacturers.

Export prices vary according to size from \$3.50 to \$5 per dozen pairs. The use of alpargatas as footwear is universal among the working classes of Venezuela, but although some persons in the United States buy them to use as bath and bedroom slippers, it is not probable that they could find any general market in that country unless it should be in the Southwest for use by the Mexican population.

Alpargata making, as conducted here, is a household industry. The manufacturers deliver the cut soles and other material to the workers, who finish them in their homes.

During the war alpargatas have been shipped to France where they are used as hospital slippers.

MEXICAN EMBARGO ON EXPORTATION OF IRON.

The American vice consul at Mexico City reported on October 26 that the Secretary of Communications and Public Works of Mexico has issued instructions making effective an absolute prohibition on the exportation of iron in any form, especially machinery and worn-out railway materials.

NINE MONTHS' EXPORTS FROM MALAGA TO UNITED STATES

[Consul Louis G. Dreyfus, jr., Malaga, Spain, Oct. 2.]

The declared value of exports from Malaga to the United States during the first nine months of 1917 was \$4,021,709, as against \$1,753,178 for the same period of 1916. The principal articles exported in increased values were olive oils, oxide of iron, essential oils, canary seed, and aniseed, while there was a decrease in the shipments of almonds, raisins, figs, and sulphur oil.

The exports of edible olive oil were used considerably during the first nine months of 1917 compared with the same period in 1916. The shipments would have been still greater if the Government had not placed restrictions on the exportation of this product early in July and subsequently an absolute embargo, as a result of which exports ceased after the first week in August. The value of exports of oxide of iron were almost three times those of the preceding year. This product is used for making paint for ship bottoms. Shipments of essential oils increased from \$129,711 for the first nine months in 1916 to \$200,329 in 1917. The principal augmentation was in shipments of oil of thyme and of rosemary. The oil of thyme is said to be used in the making of phenic acid, the price of which has risen considerably since the outbreak of the war.

Exports of almonds, raisins, and figs declined because this year the season was about three weeks later than usual. The first shipments of almonds and raisins, which are usually made on August 28, were not ready until the middle of September. Another article shipped in smaller quantities was sulphur oil.

Principal Articles and Declared Values.

By quantities and declared value, the shipments from Malaga to the United States for the first nine months of 1916 and 1917 follows:

Articles.	First nine months, 1916.		First nine months, 1917.	
	Quantities.	Values.	Quantities.	Values.
Chemical drugs, etc.:				
Cuttle-fish bone.....pounds..	4,823	\$1,218	8,881	32,393
Fusel oil.....do.....	1,834	1,195		
Tartar.....do.....			32,400	3,636
Thyme, leaves of.....do.....			33,798	2,457
Thymol.....do.....			384	7,667
Fish:				
Anchovies.....do.....	3,405	473	11,552	1,252
Guts, for fishing tackle.....do.....			1,036	4,224
Fruits and nuts:				
Almonds, shelled.....do.....	1,408,435	451,160	966,747	293,753
Apricot pulp.....do.....			25,090	2,078
Figs.....do.....	223,646	12,903	132,563	9,875
Grapes.....cubic feet.....			3,990	4,267
Olives in brine.....gallons.....	4,908	2,167	422	1,016
Orange peel.....pounds.....			41,193	3,003
Lemons.....packages.....	775	1,997	1,150	2,143
Pomegranates.....pounds.....	11,505	290		
Raisins.....do.....	442,714	72,109	360,674	64,090
Garlic.....do.....	50,494	3,088	42,584	2,127
Grease and oils: Sulphur oil.....do.....	2,028,203	178,540	89,909	8,775
Hats, palm leaf.....do.....	19,850	5,108		
Hides and skins: Goat, dried.....pounds.....	5,016	1,998		
Oils, essential:				
Junk.....do.....			154	369
Lavender.....do.....	55,820	27,672	27,155	15,393
Pennyroyal.....do.....	2,769	2,731		
Origanum.....do.....	46,679	39,231	7,999	7,779
Rosemary.....do.....	125,448	38,985	174,156	57,185

Articles.	First nine months, 1916.		First nine months, 1917.	
	Quantities.	Values.	Quantities.	Values.
Oils, essential—continued.				
Spice.....pounds.....			10,149	\$4,847
Thyme.....do.....	20,479	\$21,092	89,719	113,538
Other essential oils.....do.....			645	753
Oils, vegetable:				
Almond, sweet.....do.....	2,688	1,669	3,360	2,007
Olive oil—				
Edible.....gallons.....	427,374	436,691	2,126,390	2,674,300
Manufacturing.....do.....	375,630	307,700	401,750	409,139
Ore:				
Copper.....tons.....	30	3,454		
Iron.....do.....	4,444	23,805	1,385	20,856
Paints and colors:				
Oxide of iron.....pounds.....	4,593,905	55,578	9,147,682	160,645
Oxide of iron (crude).....do.....			879,396	7,057
Other minerals.....do.....			88,180	1,745
Rose water.....do.....		439		890
Roots, licorice.....pounds.....			2,080	259
Seeds:				
Anise.....do.....	203,285	19,781	218,315	38,281
Canary.....do.....	391,252	18,185	1,065,218	52,918
Coriander.....do.....			2,160	257
Cumin.....do.....	1,309	229	9,918	1,911
Soap, castile.....do.....	4,531	408	4,849	693
Spirits, wine, etc.:				
Anisette.....gallons.....	2,584	6,604	3,508	9,544
Wine.....do.....	9,958	8,062	8,906	9,492
Vegetables:				
Canned.....pounds.....	10,744	1,019		
Chick peas.....bushels.....	331	1,289	2,000	13,050
Works of art, antiquities.....do.....		5,757		5,522
Other articles.....do.....		2,453		995
Total.....		1,753,178		4,621,709

CITRATE OF LIME AND ESSENTIAL OILS IN CATANIA'S TRADE.

[Vice Consul Robert F. Fernald, Catania, Italy, Oct. 9.]

At a meeting of the Catania lemon and orange growers and essence manufacturers, held at the Chamber of Commerce, it was moved that the Government be induced to establish a monopoly to control the sale of essential oils on the plan of the body controlling the production and distribution of citrate of lime; and that the price of citrate of lime be augmented to correspond to the price of citric acid in the principal markets of the world.

The production and sale of citrate of lime for several years past have been controlled by a Government-supervised institution called the Camera Agrumaria, which is an association of the island's fruit growers and manufacturers of fruit derivatives. This district has virtually a monopoly of the world's output of citrate of lime. It is urged that because of the present lack of transportation and closure of former markets, a superabundance of lemons and oranges (1917-1918 gathering) is probable. The manufacture of fruit derivatives increases as exports of the fruits in the natural state decline.

There were \$2,012,298 worth of citrate of lime, \$872,224 of essential oils, and \$1,011,784 of lemons invoiced at this consulate for export to the United States during 1916.

Sweden's Wool Production.

The sheep owners in Sweden aggregate about 300,000. They own about 1,200,000 sheep. With a yield of about 6 pounds per animal, the production should amount to about 7,200,000 pounds.

DECREASED RECEIPTS CAUSE DEFICIT IN URUGUAY.

[Consul William Dawson, Montevideo, Sept. 25.]

On September 18, 1917, the Uruguayan Government presented a statement to the Congress showing that the fiscal year from July 1, 1916, to June 30, 1917, closed with a deficit of \$1,497,443 (United States currency). The Government at the same time recommended that it be authorized to issue bonds for 2,000,000 pesos (\$2,068,000) to cover the deficit, the balance to be applied to expenditures during the fiscal year 1917-18. These bonds would be part of the 6½ per cent internal conversion loan of 1916, authorized November 8, 1916, the original amount of which was 14,500,000 pesos (\$14,993,000). Article 10 of the law of November 8, 1916, reserved to the State the right to increase the amount of the loan by 2,000,000 pesos.

According to the Government message the deficit for the fiscal year 1916-17 was due to the following causes: Revenues were below budget estimates by \$2,235,771; the sum of \$1,360,865 was expended under special laws and for other purposes not foreseen in the budget; and budget appropriations fell short of meeting regular expenses by \$514,630. The deficit would thus have amounted to \$4,111,266 had it not been for the fact that the following extraordinary revenues and balances were available: Funds intended for congressional building and placed at the disposal of the Government for other purposes by law of September 15, 1916, \$890,940; balance from 6½ per cent internal conversion loan of 1916, \$701,380; from State electric works on account of profits (law of Dec. 7, 1916), \$51,700; balances to be collected, \$969,803. These ordinary receipts and balances, totaling \$2,613,823, reduce the deficit for the fiscal year 1916-17 to \$1,497,443.

It appears that the shortage of revenues below estimates, amounting to \$2,235,771, was due chiefly to the fact that customs receipts amounted to only \$11,569,358 instead of \$12,666,500 as estimated. The inheritance tax yielded \$839,375 instead of the estimated \$1,240,800, and the tax on live stock for packing houses \$350,850 instead of \$579,040. Furthermore, the State received nothing on account of the tax to cover the cost of sanitation work in Salto, Paysandu, and Mercedes, although budget estimates had placed receipts from this source at \$513,620. Revenues from other sources were also below the amounts estimated. Total receipts in 1916-17 were \$28,217,005 instead of \$30,452,776 as estimated when the budget was drawn up.

PRICES FIXED ON UPPER LEATHER IN UNITED KINGDOM:

[Cablegram from American consul general, London.]

Army Council fixes following prices on upper leather, effective until further notice: Chrome upper leather from British hides over 2½ millimeters, 1s. 10d. per foot; 2 to 2½ millimeters, 1s. 9d. per foot; 1½ to 2 millimeters, 1s. 7d. per foot for firsts. Chrome upper leather from imported wet-salted, dry, and dry-salted hides over 2½ millimeters, 1s. 2d.; 2 to 2½ millimeters, 2s.; 1½ to 2 millimeters, 1s. 2d. per foot firsts. Vegetable tanned upper leather from British hides for sides and whole sides 2½ millimeters and over, 1s. 10d.; under 2½ millimeters but not less than 2 millimeters, 1s. 9d. per foot firsts; for backs 2½ millimeters and over, 2s. 1½d.; under 2½ millimeters but not less than 2 millimeters, 2s. ½d. per foot for firsts.

BUTTON TRADE OF AUCKLAND.

[Consul General Alfred A. Winslow, Auckland, New Zealand, Oct. 6; supplementing report in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for Aug. 3, 1917, p. 446.]

In Auckland the novelty-button trade, catering as it does exclusively to makers of or dealers in women's garments, is fluctuating or spasmodic, its success depending upon the prevailing fashions. If certain styles "take" or become fashionable, then good prices are always obtainable and large quantities of the buttons are sold.

However, just now there is a glut of novelty buttons here, and the stores are offering their stocks at very low figures. This applies mostly to the cheaper novelty buttons. There is usually a regular demand for good-quality buttons. Dame Fashion may decree that next season will be strong in button trimmings. The fashions here are usually copied from the French and British styles and, because of the reversal of the seasons, are about nine months later.

Although there are no large manufacturers of buttons, a number of the stores and jobbers make their own cloth buttons with button machines and molds. Thus cloth buttons would not have much chance in these parts. "There seems at the present time to be a strong demand for good ivory buttons of various design. The Canadians are already doing a good business in ivory buttons.

Introducing Staple Lines.

Practically no novelty buttons are used in the men's trade. A good trade is done in imported staple lines, especially in vegetable ivory and composition. The most practical ways of placing these lines on the New Zealand market are:

First. Send samples to the wholesale jobbers or warehousemen whose trade is most desirable. From their opinion of the goods one can judge the likelihood of doing business in this country.

Second. Arrange with a local agent to introduce and establish the buttons. This is probably the better plan. The usual way here is for the foreign manufacturer to be responsible for the accounts, although it could be easily arranged for the local agent to assume the responsibility.

At the present time it might be a little difficult to open new business with new houses, for the importers here are shy of indenting from new houses for three reasons: (1) The impossibility of giving firm prices; (2) the difficulty of obtaining shipping space; (3) the high rate of carriage overseas. These difficulties, of course, are due to the war.

PROPOSED WAR MUSEUM FOR BIRMINGHAM.

[Consul E. Haldeman Dennison, Birmingham, England, Oct. 13.]

Great interest has been shown by the citizens of Birmingham in a proposal to establish a war-memorial museum for the assembling of mementoes, trophies, etc., illustrative of the part Birmingham has taken in the prosecution of the war. These would be particularly associated with the local units. The museum also would be a means of preserving in perpetuity a list of the names of the men who had fallen in battle. The local art gallery or some similar building will be used at the outset for the exhibits, but it is proposed that eventually a special building shall be constructed. A committee has been elected to proceed immediately with the scheme.

INDUSTRIAL EXPOSITION IN SÃO PAULO.

[Consul Charles L. Hoover, São Paulo, Brazil, Oct. 1.]

On September 30, 1917, there was inaugurated in this city an exposition of the manufactures of the State of São Paulo. The exposition was opened in the presence of the officials of the State and of Ambassador Morgan, who was visiting in the city at the time.

The preparations for this exposition, which is later to be a permanent industrial exposition for this State, have been in progress for nearly two years, but owing to difficulty in obtaining building material the imposing structure that is to house it is not yet completed. When finished the space available for exhibitors will be about 25,000 square feet, of which about 10,000 square feet are now in service for this exposition.

Some of the Lines Displayed.

The main building is two stories in height. To its rear is a section known as the "cloister," which is made up of a beautiful inner court, with a central fountain, the showrooms on the four sides opening without façades into the court. In this are exhibited the machinery produced in the various factories of the State, manufactures of clay, including "ironstone" chinaware of excellent quality, decorative tiling, glazed tiling, fire brick, glass, decorative earthenware, leather, rope, carriages, hardware, boats, and various small industrial products. The exhibits of machinery, leather, and earthenware are especially noteworthy for the range and excellent character of the articles produced.

The main hall, which adjoins the central edifice on the left as one faces the building, is called the "gallery"; in it are exhibited the products of the hat, shoe, and textile industries. The textile exhibits, embracing cotton textiles of a very wide range of qualities, as well as laces, silk (dress silks, ribbons, silk hosiery, silk underwear, and trimmings), wool (woolen and worsted dress goods and suitings, and felt), and jute (textiles of various qualities, as well as sacking), are surprisingly complete, and make it plain that hereafter Brazil will be practically independent of foreign countries for all staple textiles and will import only special qualities which are in such small demand that it will not pay to manufacture them here. All grades of hats, from the cheapest straw hats to the most expensive silk hats, soft felt hats, and derbies, are exhibited by several manufacturers. The industry seems to be as well developed in proportion as it is in the United States.

Domestic Articles Will Replace Imported Goods.

Two annexes to the "gallery" contain exhibits of chemicals, drugs, soaps, orthopedic apparatus, toilet articles, insecticides (a very important industry here, on account of a number of insect pests which exist in this region), furniture, toys, surgical instruments, musical instruments, food products, vegetable oils, packing-house products, fruit juices, and sirups.

It is noteworthy that a great many of the articles exhibited have been manufactured here only since the outbreak of the war in Europe. From the character of the wares produced it is very evident that those Continental countries which formerly sold to Brazil goods of these classes have permanently lost much of their trade in

these articles. The manufacturers themselves were surprised at the great variety of goods shown. As one of them expressed it: "You have only to think of any article of commerce, from a turret lathe to a button, and you will find it here."

The exposition will close the last of October, but as soon as the building is completed it will be kept open permanently. The space of the part now open is completely filled, although only about 200 manufacturers have been able to get space.

FUTURE ENGLISH DEMAND FOR ELECTRIC VEHICLES.

[Consul E. Haldeman Dennison, Birmingham, Oct. 15.]

It is probable that after the war there will be a favorable opportunity in England for the sale of electrically propelled vehicles. American manufacturers would do well to look to this field and be prepared when normal times return to get a fair share of the trade. In the past this type of car failed to obtain much popularity, but the scarcity and high price of gasoline and the difficulty of obtaining any of the ordinary liquid fuels have caused a change.

Many persons are convinced that the price of gasoline will remain high even after hostilities cease, and in fact may never again be as low as in prewar times. It is true that coal gas as a substitute for gasoline has been largely employed by many motorists, but for various reasons, especially on account of the space that it occupies, only a small proportion have adopted it as a way out of the gasoline difficulty. Already the use of electric commercial cars has begun to show an increase, although they are difficult to obtain under present conditions.

When the war is over it is thought that there will be a large demand for the electric car. Several municipalities have been experimenting with heavy electric vehicles and obtained satisfactory results. They have been found to be especially suitable for such work as town scavenging.

A heavy car which runs between the towns of Smethwick, Dudley, and Kidderminster in this district is supplied with electrical energy at a low cost. Birmingham is well situated from an electric-vehicle point of view. Not only is current cheap, but within a 50-mile radius of the city there are 22 charging stations, apart from the 7 stations within the city.

DATING CATALOGUES FOR FOREIGN TRADE.

[Consul Wallace J. Young, Goteborg, Sweden, Oct. 10.]

I desire again to bring to the attention of manufacturers who are sending copies of their catalogues abroad the advisability of printing on such catalogues the date of their issuance. While catalogues sent consulates are stamped with the date of their receipt and therefore an approximation of when they were issued is possible, if a business house or other recipient does not so stamp an incoming catalogue there is great chance of confusion of dates, with consequent confusions and misunderstandings between the foreign buyer and the American seller as to price, patterns, etc.

[Consul James Oliver Laing, of Batavia, Java, also advises the dating of catalogues. See COMMERCE REPORTS for Oct. 2, 1917.]

GROWTH OF TRADE IN CASTOR BEANS AND OIL.

[Consul Harry A. McBride, London, England, Oct. 5.]

The castor plant is cultivated in India, Java, Brazil, and to a limited extent in the United States and Italy. It is also found growing wild or in a state of semicultivation in most tropical and subtropical localities. Castor oil, derived from the bean produced by this plant, has long been used medicinally, but its use for other purposes is now rapidly increasing. In England the castor bean is treated in three different ways. For the product known as pharmaceutical oil it is pressed cold and is known as "cold drawn." "First pressings oil" is pressed under heat and "seconds" is the term applied to the residue, which is extracted from the beans usually by acid.

Uses of Oil for Lubrication and Dyeing.

The pharmaceutical oil, although used in normal times for medicinal purposes, is now also employed to a considerable extent as a high-class lubricant and for waterproof preparations. First pressings oil also is used for lubrication, but at present is employed more in England for the dyeing industry. From it is made what is called "Turkey red" oil, which is used not only in dyeing, but also in the manufacture of transparent soaps. This grade enters into the manufacture of waterproof preparations such as are made in the United Kingdom, and in addition is used for leather dressing.

During the war these two classes have been used extensively for lubricating aeroplane engines. It is reported by the trade that the quantities employed for this purpose are very large, and that probably they represent at least 75 per cent of the output. The pharmaceutical oil is preferable, especially in the cold weather, because it is cold-drawn and thus has a better cold test.

"Seconds," or the residue, is too high in free fatty acid to be suitable for the lubrication of aeroplane engines. The principal use for this product in England is in the manufacture of liquid disinfectants, although it is also employed to some extent in the dyeing industry and for soap making. It is used as castor oil for cattle and has many other small uses.

Imports and Exports by United Kingdom.

India is the chief source of supply of both the castor beans and the castor oil that are imported by the United Kingdom. The imports of castor beans in 1916 amounted to 819,016 hundredweight of 112 pounds each, valued at \$3,567,787, compared with 556,305 hundredweight, valued at \$1,751,342, in 1915. Practically all of this came from India, with unimportant shipments from Pernambuco and Maranhao, Brazil, and from Java.

The imports of castor oil by the United Kingdom in 1916 amounted to 5,701 tons, valued at \$1,212,367, compared with 763 tons, valued at \$137,240, in 1915. About one-third of the imports came from India, where the oil is now manufactured by somewhat crude processes. Village oil mills, worked by bullocks and hand presses, exist in all parts of that country. Lately, however, there has been a great increase in the number of oil mills worked by steam or other mechanical power, and these are furnishing increased quantities for export to European countries.

Castor beans are not exported from the United Kingdom in crude form, but there is considerable export trade in castor oil. In 1916 there were 3,084 tons, valued at \$363,200, shipped to foreign countries, compared with 3,064 tons, valued at \$530,940, in 1915. France, Russia, Canada, and the United States were the chief countries to which the oil was consigned.

Means of Getting Supply for United States.

To firms in the United States which desire to obtain the beans for crushing purposes, certain facts may be of interest. The beans are packed for shipment in boxes. The extreme difficulty of obtaining tonnage must be taken into account. British merchants dealing in this article usually receive a selling brokerage from the Indian shippers, so that it should not be necessary for them to charge the buyer's commission. At present only a limited amount of seed would be available, on account of the British Government's requirements. It is understood that it was proposed the Government should control the whole crop in India, but that the Indian Government retained a limited amount for disposal in the usual mercantile channels. On account of the important use of castor oil for aeroplane lubrication, there is now a prohibition of exports of castor oil and castor beans, and American firms which desire to purchase supplies would be obliged to import direct from India, Java, or other producing countries. It would probably be impossible for Americans to import castor beans except at ports maintaining direct steamship communication with the sources of supply.

The price fixed by the British Government controller is £37 (\$180.06) c. i. f. per ton, but one of the British merchants that are interested in this article states that it is possible to make purchases at Bombay at about \$148 per ton. One London agent states that he has recently made sales at 44 shillings (\$10.71) per hundredweight c. i. f. New York, war insurance paid, confirmed credit opened at New York before shipment.

[A list of British merchants who would be willing to act as buying agents for American importers of castor beans may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 94043.]

[Consul A. T. Haeberle, Pernambuco, Brazil, Sept. 4.]

Price Constantly Increasing at Pernambuco.

No castor beans are now available for export from Pernambuco. There are about 150 tons in the market, but they have been purchased by various exporters here. It is difficult to predict what the stock will be in one or two months. While the usual amount in stock averages 150 tons per month, it is likely to be greater because of the constantly increasing prices of the last two months and good crops that are expected in October and November. Merchants figure on at least 4,000 tons for the next year. The market value is 7 cents and f. o. b. 8½ cents per pound, but the price has so steadily increased during the past two months that a still greater increase is expected.

Trees Grow Wild and Are Prolific.

Virtually all the castor beans shipped to the port of Pernambuco originate at the two terminal points of the railway branches—Garanhuns and Pesqueira. Castor trees grow wild and are very

prolific in Garanhuns and Pesqueira. They are also found in large quantities in many other parts of the State. In fact, the tree is so abundant that at times it has been considered a nuisance. While it is not yet cultivated, it is not as wantonly destroyed as formerly, since the demand for the seed has so greatly increased during the last few years, and especially since its price has so sharply advanced in the past few months.

The seed is brought into Garanhuns from a distance of 20 to 30 miles, and is stored in warehouses, of which there are about six, then shipped to Pernambuco. Two months ago there were stored in Garanhuns several hundred tons of castor seed which could have been bought there for 4 cents per pound, but the amount is not available now as it has been contracted for by firms in this city.

An Englishman in Garanhuns contemplates establishing an oil mill at that point. While the seed stored there had been bought up by the warehouses, there was a scarcity of sacks, and it could not be shipped to Pernambuco.

Similar Conditions in Two Sections.

The other source is about 18 miles beyond Pesqueira, but Pesqueira is the principal city and therefore the center of all raw products for export. The land surrounding Pesqueira is very fertile, although the rainfall is less than at Garanhuns. Castor seed also grows abundantly in Pesqueira. About the same condition prevails as in Garanhuns, although on a slightly smaller scale.

Pesqueira has a castor-oil mill with complete equipment. All its machinery is of the latest type, approximately 2 to 3 years old, and sufficiently large to press about two tons of seed every 12 hours. This output could be doubled by working at night. Labor for the plant is cheap. The present owner pays \$1.25 a day for his whole inside force, which includes fireman, engineer, and assistant.

Exports of castor seed from Pernambuco (including a few small shipments from Maceió and Parahyba) to the United States from 1913 to August 15, 1917, in kilos of 2.2 pounds each were: In 1913, none; in 1914, 227,900; in 1915, 228,200; in 1916, 427,700; to August 15, 1917, 2,282,200.

ANTILOCUST CAMPAIGN IN URUGUAY.

[Consul William Dawson, Montevideo, Oct. 3.]

The Uruguayan Congress has authorized the expenditure of 120,000 pesos (\$124,080) for the purpose of combatting locusts during the coming season. This is a special appropriation which supplements regular budgetary expenditures under this head. As usual, the campaign will be carried out by the Defensa Agrícola, a permanent institution organized for this work. The Defensa Agrícola will have committees in charge of different zones with sectional and district subcommittees. It possesses a considerable equipment. The army is also used in fighting locusts.

On account of the increased acreage and excellent prospects for the coming crop unusual preparations are being made to combat the locust, which has already made its appearance in the northern departments.

PERMANENT ELECTRICAL EXHIBIT AT MONTEVIDEO.

[Consul William Dawson, Montevideo, Uruguay, Oct. 6.]

The Montevideo electric light and power plant, which is owned and operated by the State, will within a few days inaugurate a section devoted to the exhibition of electrical apparatus and the furnishing of information. The purpose of this service is to encourage the use of electricity.

The showrooms are very attractively arranged and include separate divisions for appliances used in dining rooms, pantries, kitchens, bathrooms, dressing rooms, laundries, etc. In each case the division is completely furnished and shows exactly how the various appliances are installed and used. Attendants will explain the operation of apparatus and furnish information as to rates, etc. In many cases special measuring instruments illustrate the exact consumption of current.

Only Kitchen Stoves to be Sold at Present.

For the present the plant proposes to sell kitchen stoves only. However, it is not impossible that it may later sell other appliances. Articles in considerable variety are already on hand for exhibition, and the management will be glad to receive catalogues from manufacturers of all kinds of supplies and apparatus, particularly such as are for household use.

It must be borne in mind that for the present, with the exception of cooking stoves, the plant is interested in acquiring appliances for exhibition purposes only and not for sale to the public. Still, the advertising value of such an exhibition is obvious, and in many instances it might be well worth while to offer sample appliances gratuitously. All correspondence intended for the new section or relating thereto should be addressed to the Usinas Eléctricas del Estado, Oficina de Exposición é Informaciones, Montevideo, Uruguay.

Special Rates for Current.

Electricity is very widely employed at Montevideo for lighting, and its use for other purposes is growing. Electric fans have been popular for some time. The director of the electric plant states that the cooking stoves imported have found a ready sale, and that it has proved difficult to secure a sufficient supply. Electric heating stoves and irons are also growing in popularity. The middle and upper classes are as a rule quick to appreciate an innovation which offers marked advantages over old methods.

In order to encourage the use of electricity in households the plant recently established a special rate of 3 centesimos (3.103 cents) per kilowatt hour for current used for domestic purposes. This does not include lighting service. For electric cooking stoves and heaters a further special rate of 2 centesimos (2.068 cents) per kilowatt hour is offered.

The voltage at Montevideo is 220, and the city has alternating current.

New Steamship Route Between Sweden and Germany.

The shipping firm Neptun, of Bremen, has established a new steamship route between Bremen and various Swedish ports. The first steamship arrived at Malmo, Sweden, October 18 with a cargo of iron.

IMPORTANCE OF MARKING ON CASES SHIPPED TO CHILE.

[Special Agent Grosvenor M. Jones.]

The marking of merchandise for Chilean destination is a matter that demands more careful attention on the part of the American exporter. A few days ago the writer spent the afternoon in the Valparaiso customhouse in the company of Señor Don Jorge Welsh, "jefe de movilización," making a careful inspection of a great quantity of American goods stored there and of a lot that was being discharged at the fiscal mole from the steamship *Harald*, of the Globe Line. Probably 60 per cent of the cases were well packed, 30 per cent fairly well packed, and about 10 per cent poorly packed. The poor condition of a number of the cases may fairly be attributed to improper stowing in New York and to the fact that the *Harald* is a small steamer and probably rolled a great deal during the voyage. Careful stowing is of prime importance in all ships but more especially in the smaller boats.

The marking of the cases was less satisfactory than the packing. There was a considerable number of well-packed cases that were poorly marked. Since poor or improper marking is a violation of the customs regulations and may subject the ship to a fine and cause interminable delays in the inspection of the goods in the customhouse, it is of the utmost importance that exporters exercise care in the matter. Chilean customs regulations require that all marks be made with stencil and not with brush or labels; a violation of this rule subjects the ship to a fine. It is understood that one of the large steamship and trading concerns has a stencil-cutting machine at its docks in New York City and cuts out stencils for every case or container that is brush marked before receiving it on any of the ships. If the steamship lines can not get the manufacturer or the exporter to use stencil markings, they would better do the stenciling themselves and make an extra charge against the exporter.

How Marking Should be Done.

All markings should be in letters 2 or 2½ inches high. Durable paint must be used and must be carefully applied so as to have the letters and numbers clear and distinct. Containers are liable to rub against other containers in the hold or to be soiled by dirt or grease. Moreover, with the high temperatures in the hold during the days the ship is passing through the Tropics, and with the exposure to sun and rain on the docks, the marks may rub off or become obscured. It is advisable, therefore, to place the marks on opposite ends of the case, two ends being sufficient.

The mark of the consignee, the number of the case, and the port of destination should all be stenciled in characters of the same size—2 inches or more in height.

All marks should be placed fairly close together. They should not be scattered all over the case. A great deal of time is saved in many directions if the marks can be read quickly. The well-marked cases get prompter despatch in the customhouse.

A certain order should be followed in marking. First comes the consignee's mark. Just below that should come the number of the case if the consignment consists of more than one case. Below the number of the case should be placed the port of destination. All of these marks, as stated above, should be close together. Several inches

below port of destination should be placed gross and net weights in kilos and pounds. Measurements in inches and centimeters are not required by the customs regulations; they are of value only to the steamship company and may, therefore, be put down in one corner of the case.

Caution signs should be in Spanish as well as English. The Spanish word "Vidrio" should be placed under the word "Glass." "Con cuidado" should be placed under the phrase "Handle with care," "Este lado arriba" under "This side up," "No dar vuelta a esta caja" under "This case is not to be turned over," "Tenga esta caja bien seca" under "Keep this case in a dry place," etc.

If an old case is used (which is a practice to be condemned), special care should be taken to remove completely the former markings. A great deal of confusion is caused by two sets of markings, since, in a number of instances, the old marks show up quite as clearly as the new.

Numbering of Cases—Arrangement of Marks.

Special stress should be laid on the fact that in consignments of more than one case each case should be numbered and that this number should agree with that shown on the invoices. Unless the cases are numbered, it is difficult, if not impossible, for the consignee to withdraw a case from the customhouse until the whole consignment has been received.

The following is an illustration of the order and arrangement of marks that Señor Welsh, of the Valparaiso customhouse, considers the best:

Handle with care.
Con cuidado.



CASE NO. 7.

VALPARAISO.

	Kilos.	Pounds.
Gross weight.....	100	220
Net weight.....	50	110

LATIN AMERICA'S CONSUMPTION OF TEA.

Argentina is, apparently, the chief consumer of Asiatic tea among the Latin Republics. In 1916 that country imported 1,518,887 kilos (kilo=2.2046 pounds) of tea, contrasted with 1,368,584 kilos imported by Chile, its nearest competitor in this regard. However, the Chilean total is for the year 1915, and is, accordingly, not strictly comparable with the Argentina total—as is also the case with certain other of the figures given below.

From these imports of over a million kilos there is a drop to less than half that quantity for the country ranking third—Peru, with imports of 419,517 kilos of tea in 1915; and another sharp decline occurs between third and fourth place, occupied by Brazil with imports of 294,216 kilos in 1916. Other of the Southern Republics show tea imports as follows (the figures in each instance representing the latest official data available): Uruguay, 1915, 153,971 kilos; Bolivia, 1915, 97,857 kilos; Panama, last six months of 1915, 29,347 kilos; Colombia, 1915, 21,450 kilos; Ecuador, 1914, 17,275 kilos; Guatemala, 1914, 15,920 kilos; Costa Rica, 1915, 13,831 kilos; Nicaragua, 1916, 8,036 kilos; Venezuela, 1915, 2,658 kilos.

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the Bureau and its district and cooperative offices. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and state opportunity number. The Bureau does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases. Symbols: * Reported by American consular officers; † Reported by commercial attachés and commercial agents; ‡ Direct inquiries received by the Bureau.

In considering the following "opportunities" special regard should be had to the laws and regulations governing export licenses and trading with the enemy.

Compressed tablets-----	25811	Pig iron-----	25813
Confectionery-----	25811	Pumps-----	25813
Cotton goods-----	25812	Safes-----	25813
Electrical supplies-----	25814	Snowshoes-----	25812
Glass, window-----	25813	Steel products-----	25813
Machinery-----	25813, 25815, 25816	Suitings-----	25812
Nails-----	25813	Wire-----	25813
Photographic supplies-----	25817	Woolen goods-----	25812

25811.*—A company in England desires to purchase or secure an agency for the sale of compressed pine and lemonade tablets or any other kind of tablets of a similar nature, chewing gum, and other confectionery. Samples of the pine and lemonade tablets may be examined at the Bureau or its district offices. (Refer to file No. 91411.) The tablets should be wrapped in wax paper and pure tin foil, and labeled. Packing and cases should be free.

25812.*—A wholesaler in Italy desires to buy woolen goods and suitings, mixed woolen and cotton goods and suitings for making clothes for men, black, blue, and mixed shades being desired, and snowshoes for men and women. Quotations should be made f. o. b. New York. Payment will be made against shipping documents through local bank. Correspondence should be in French or Italian.

25813.*—A firm in French Indo-China is in the market for workshop machinery, nails, lathes, barbed wire, pumps, round steel plate, squares, angles, bars, safes, galvanized wire, pig iron, and single and one-half double window glass. Payments will be made by cash against documents. Correspondence may be in English. References.

25814.*—A merchant in Italy wishes to purchase electric wire for internal installations, cotton coated, with a capacity of 350 volts; black and white insulating tape 1 and 2 centimeters wide; porcelain insulators; electric-lamp bulbs with wire-drawn filaments, with a voltage of 120, 125, and 200, candle power ranging from 5 to 50; crystal and porcelain reflectors and other fittings for electrical installations; all kinds of electric fans; electric motors; and cotton-coated wire for electric bells. Quotations should be made f. o. b. New York. Payment will be made by opening credit in local bank, available against shipping documents. Samples of the insulators may be examined at the Bureau or its district offices. (Refer to file No. 91565.) Correspondence should be in French or Italian. References.

25815.*—A man in Senegal is in the market for machinery for crushing stone and for the manufacture of cement. Quotations should be made f. o. b. New York. Payment will be made by cash in the United States. Correspondence is preferred in French.

25816.*—A firm in Italy desires to buy machinery for making and finishing casing of different sizes. A sample of the casing such as it wishes to make may be examined at the Bureau or its district offices. (Refer to file No. 92933.) Catalogues should be submitted. Correspondence should be in French or Italian. Reference.

25817.*—An agency is desired by a commission agent in Spain for the sale of photographic supplies. Correspondence should be in Spanish. References.

OFFICES OF THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE.

DISTRICT OFFICES.

NEW YORK: 734 Customhouse.
BOSTON: 1801 Customhouse.
CHICAGO: 504 Federal Building.
ST. LOUIS: 402 Third National Bank Building.
NEW ORLEANS: 1020 Iberville Bank Building.
SAN FRANCISCO: 307 Customhouse.
SEATTLE: 848 Henry Building.

COOPERATIVE OFFICES.

CLEVELAND: Chamber of Commerce.
CINCINNATI: Chamber of Commerce.
CINCINNATI: General Freight Agent, Southern Railway, 96 Ingalls Building.
LOS ANGELES: Chamber of Commerce.
PHILADELPHIA: Chamber of Commerce.
CHATTANOOGA: South American Agent, Southern Railway System.
PORTLAND, OREG.: Chamber of Commerce.
DAYTON: Greater Dayton Association.

NOV 14 1917

COMMERCE REPORTS

PRINCETON, N. J.



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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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No. 266 Washington, D. C., Tuesday, November 13 1917

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CERTIFICATES OF INTEREST FOR PHILIPPINE PRODUCTS.

[Cablegram from American consul general, London, England, Nov. 9.]

Foreign Trade Department reports that certificates of interest for imports into United Kingdom from Philippine Islands and Porto Rico no longer required.

[As stated in Foreign Tariff Notes No. 23, p. 74, the British Government required that imports be accompanied by certificates stating that no person named on the British Black List had any interest in the goods. Shipments from the Philippines and Porto Rico were subject to this regulation, but those from the United States were exempted. The requirement has been in force since October, 1916.]

SHIPMENT OF ANTIMONY FROM HONGKONG.

[Cablegram from American Ambassador, London, England.]

Foreign Office informs me that although negotiations for joint purchase of antimony are in abeyance, the existing restrictions are relaxed for the present, as regards the export of refined Chinese antimony to the United States via Hongkong. Restrictions may be reimposed should shipping difficulties or other circumstances make it necessary.

[The embargo list for Hongkong prohibits the exportation of antimony and its alloys except to the United Kingdom, British possessions and protectorates.]

NEW MEMBER OF THE WAR TRADE BOARD.

At the instance of the Secretary of Commerce, the President has appointed Mr. Clarence M. Woolley a member of the War Trade Board.

Mr. Woolley is, and has been for many years, the president of the American Radiator Co., one of the most successful manufacturing

corporations in the country. He has built up the business of this company from a small beginning to its present magnitude, in which it has, in addition to its plants in America, very large manufacturing establishments in most of the foreign countries. Mr. Woolley is a director of the First National Bank of Chicago and of the New York Trust Co. of New York, in addition to many other boards. It is believed that his services will be especially valuable on the import side of the board's work because of his familiarity with the questions involved.

EXPORTATION OF WHEAT AND WHEAT FLOUR.

Wheat and wheat flour is to-day being strictly conserved in this country. No licenses are being granted for either of these two commodities unless special conclusive evidence is submitted that the commodities are urgently needed for the sustenance of the employees of companies, whose products directly aid the United States or those associated with it in carrying on the war.

All applications for export licenses for flour will now require a Food Administration Contract Number, which must be inserted on the application directly above the space allotted to the Applicant's Reference Number. Furthermore, in the space where the "quantity" is to be given it is required that the brand, the number and size of the sacks, and their equivalent in 196-pound barrels must be stated clearly. Applications which do not comply with these requirements will be returned to the applicant.

The Food Administration Contract Numbers are issued by the United States Food Administration, milling division, whose headquarters are located at 74 Broadway, New York City, and whose branch offices are located at Lockport, N. Y.; Nashville, Tenn.; Toledo, Ohio; Chicago, Ill.; Minneapolis, Minn.; St. Louis, Mo.; Kansas City, Mo.; Portland, Oreg.; and San Francisco, Cal.

The mills throughout the country have been supplied with these contract-numbered forms, and exporters of flour can secure these numbers from the mills from whom they make their purchases. If the purchase is made through the exporter, the exporter should be required to secure the necessary number from the manufacturer of the flour.

The fact that the Food Administration Contract Number is obtained and inserted upon the application is no assurance whatever that the application will be granted, but no application will be considered which does not bear such a number.

The Food Administration states that any flour now at port or in transit, for which licenses have been refused, can be sold to the allies upon application to the Grain Corporation at 42 Broadway, New York City.

New Shipping Agency in Buenos Aires.

Consul General W. Henry Robertson reports that according to the local newspapers of recent date, a new shipping agency has been formed in Buenos Aires under the title of the Anglo-Argentine Shipping Agency Co. (Ltd.), which, it is said, will assume the representation here of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Co.

EFFECT OF DECREASED LAKE TONNAGE ON GRAIN CARRYING.

The following paper, prepared by Capt. A. A. Poland, Corps of Engineers, United States Army, traffic expert of the Committee on Inland Water Transportation of the Council of National Defense, shows the loss of tonnage on the Great Lakes since 1914. The significance of the report arises from the steady loss in grain shipments by lake, with consequent greater strain on the railroads, and resulting damage to the prospects for traffic of the New York Barge Canal.

Prior to the effective date of the order of the Interstate Commerce Commission to the rail carriers that they must dispose of their lake boats, there were in the service of such railroad-owned lake lines a total of 55 boats, ranging in tonnage from 1,840 to 6,500 tons.

In accord with the order of the Interstate Commerce Commission, the railroad-owned lake lines proceeded to dispose of their boats, and 16, ranging in tonnage from 1,840 to 3,400 tons capacity, were sold and removed entirely from service on the Lakes west of Lake Ontario, and one other boat, the *Mohawk*, of 3,300 tons capacity, was sold, and is still in the service on Lake Michigan, but in across-lake service.

The total gross tonnage of the boats that have disappeared from service on the Lakes is 44,080 tons. The loading capacity of 90 per cent of the gross tonnage would be 40,000 tons for one trip.

The average round trip for these boats was 10 days. They could therefore accomplish 22 round trips during the season of navigation. The gross aggregate tonnage carrying capacity for one season was 880,000 tons. The potential carrying capacity of the boats, as expressed in bushels and barrels, as the case may be, is as follows: Eight hundred and eighty thousand tons is equal to 29,333,333 bushels of wheat, or 31,428,571 bushels of corn or rye, or 36,666,666 bushels of barley, or 55,000,000 bushels of oats, or 8,979,592 barrels of flour.

The number of freight cars required to handle the amount of each commodity shown above is as follows: Wheat, 1,400 bushels per car, 20,952 cars; corn or rye, 1,600 bushels per car, 19,643 cars; barley, 1,800 bushels per car, 20,370 cars; oats, 2,000 bushels per car, 27,500 cars; and flour, 200 barrels per car, 44,898 cars. Allowing one day for placing and loading, three days en route, and one day for unloading it would require to transport, Chicago to Buffalo, if loaded with wheat, 104,760 car days; with corn or rye, 98,715 car days; with barley, 101,850 car days; with oats, 137,500 car days; with flour, 224,490 car days.

Grain Clearances from Chicago.

The clearances from Chicago via lake for 1914, 1915, 1916, and the first half of 1914, 1915, 1916, and 1917, respectively, are shown in the following table:

Flour and grain cleared from Chicago via lake.

Grains.	1914	1915	1916	April to June 30, 1914.	April to June 30, 1915.	April to June 30, 1916.	April to June 30, 1917.
Flour.....	<i>Bushels.</i> • 3,067,000	<i>Bushels.</i> • 2,809,000	<i>Bushels.</i> • 1,787,000	<i>Bushels.</i> • 1,787,000	<i>Bushels.</i> • 1,787,000	<i>Bushels.</i> • 1,787,000	<i>Bushels.</i> • 151,000
Wheat.....	86,456,000	16,205,000	8,801,000	8,210,000	5,436,000	327,000	642,000
Corn.....	21,861,000	26,047,000	13,986,000	7,155,000	13,218,000	3,660,000	1,863,000
Oats.....	11,119,000	8,125,000	4,791,000	1,660,000	2,320,000	65,000	8,663,000
Rye.....	75,000	23,000		75,000			
Barley.....	250,000	27,000					

• Barrels.

Grain in Storage at Chicago.

Grain in storage at Chicago upon opening of navigation and also at approximately June 30 each year is shown in the following table:

Dates.	Wheat.	Corn.	Oats.	Rye.	Barley.
	<i>Bushels.</i>	<i>Bushels.</i>	<i>Bushels.</i>	<i>Bushels.</i>	<i>Bushels.</i>
Apr. 18, 1914.....	4,556,000	8,022,000	7,514,000	239,000	307,000
June 27, 1914.....	782,000	2,681,000	2,884,000	48,000	83,000
Apr. 17, 1915.....	1,149,000	9,481,000	11,180,000	15,000	487,000
June 26, 1915.....	417,000	1,983,000	1,455,000	2,000	172,000
Apr. 15, 1916.....	4,531,000	9,709,000	5,072,000	76,000	441,000
June 24, 1916.....	6,391,000	3,763,000	5,783,000	71,000	128,000
Apr. 14, 1917.....	1,715,000	2,735,000	14,315,000	180,000	243,000
June 30, 1917.....	208,000	248,000	1,511,000	4,000	53,000

All grain for Buffalo by lake is necessarily unloaded into elevators, where it is available alike for reshipment by canal, barge, or by rail.

A large number of boats still remaining in the Great Lakes trade have been diverted from the Chicago-Buffalo route to other service, which has resulted in a further loss of tonnage for this traffic movement, and thus thrown a still larger tonnage, which formerly moved by water, upon the rail carriers between Chicago and Buffalo.

Steamers on Great Lakes.

The following table shows (1) steamers owned and operated on the Great Lakes by trunk lines prior to divorcement by the Interstate Commerce Commission, (2) steamers sold and their service on the Great Lakes discontinued, and (3) steamers sold but still in service on the Great Lakes.

Steamers owned and operated on the Great Lakes by trunk lines prior to divorcement by the Interstate Commerce Commission.

Line and steamer.	Length.	Beam.	Depth.	Capacity.	Built.
	<i>Feet.</i>	<i>Feet.</i>	<i>Feet.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>	
Erie Railroad Lake Line:					
Underwood.....	326.5	44	29.3	4,000	1897
Delos W. Cook.....	319.5	44	27.8	4,000	1896
Richardson.....	265.5	40.6	26	2,600	1893
Tioga.....	285.5	38.9	26.7	2,600	1885
Lehigh Valley T. Co.:					
Wilkesbarre.....	381.7	50.5	28	6,000	.....
Mauch Chunk.....	381.7	50.5	28	6,000	.....
Bethlehem.....	290	40.8	13.6	2,800	.....
Saranac.....	290	40.8	13.6	2,800	.....
Seneca.....	290	40.8	13.6	2,800	.....
Tuscarora.....	291.4	20.4	22	2,800	.....
Canada Atlantic T. Co.:					
Geo. N. Orr.....	326	42.2	21.8	4,500	.....
Arthur Orr.....	334	41.3	21.8	4,500	.....
Kearsage.....	328	44.2	28	4,500	.....
Anchor Line:					
Schuykill.....	278.4	40.4	13.3	3,000	1892
Mahoning.....	274	40.2	23.2	3,000	1892
Codorus.....	275.5	40.1	26	3,000	1892
Susquehanna.....	302.5	40	16	2,400	1886
Muncy.....	350	46	30	5,500	1902
Delaware.....	350	46.2	30.2	5,500	1905
Alleghany.....	350	46.2	30.2	5,500	1910
Wisconsin.....	350	46	30.9	5,500	1907
Conemaugh.....	350	46	31	5,500	1909
Tionesta.....	340	45.2	28	3,200	1903
Octara.....	340	45.2	28	3,200	1910
Juniata.....	346	45	28	3,200	1905
Western Transit Co.:					
Buffalo.....	381.7	50.5	28	6,000	1899
Boysen.....	350	48	30	5,000	1913
Chicago.....	324.2	44	28	4,800	1891
Minwaukee.....	325	44	28	4,800	1902
Mohawk.....				3,800	
Troy.....	398.4	47	28	5,500	1898

Line and steamer.	Length.	Beam.	Depth.	Capacity.	Built.
Western Transit Co.—Continued.	<i>Feet.</i>	<i>Feet.</i>	<i>Feet.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>	
Utica.....	325	44.2	30.9	4,800	1904
Rochester.....	381	50.2	30	6,500	1907
Superior.....	381	50.2	30.2	6,500	1905
Duluth.....	386	50.2	30.2	6,500	1903
Mutual Transit:					
Northern King.....	299.5	40.8	21.6	3,400	1888
Northern Light.....	299.5	40.8	21.6	3,400	1888
Northern Queen.....	299.5	40.8	21.6	3,400	1889
Northern Wave.....	299.5	40.8	21.6	3,400	1889
North Wind.....	299.5	40.8	21.6	3,400	1888
North Star.....	350	46	26	5,500	1909
North Lake.....	350	46	26	5,500	1909
North Sea.....	351.2	46.2	31	5,500	1909
Huron.....				2,500	.....
Minneapolis.....				2,500	.....
St. Paul.....				2,500	.....
Rhodes.....				2,500	.....
Rutland Transit:					
Arlington.....				3,000	.....
Bennington.....				3,000	.....
Brandon.....				3,000	.....
Burlington.....				3,000	.....
Ogdensburg.....				3,000	.....
Rutland.....				3,000	.....
W. J. Averill.....	241.7	38.7	14.5	1,840	1884
W. N. Haskell.....	242.5	37	14.2	1,840	1884

Steamers sold and their service on the Great Lakes discontinued.

Line and steamer.	Length.	Beam.	Depth.	Capacity.	Built.
Anchor Line:	<i>Feet.</i>	<i>Feet.</i>	<i>Feet.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>	
Schuylkill.....	28.4	40.4	13.3	3,000	1892
Mahoning.....	24	43.2	23.2	3,000	1862
Codorus.....	25.5	40.1	26	3,000	1862
Susquehanna.....	302.5	40	16	3,400	1886
Rutland Transit:					
Arlington.....				3,000	.....
Bennington.....				3,000	.....
Brandon.....				3,000	.....
Burlington.....				3,000	.....
Ogdensburg.....				3,000	.....
Rutland.....				3,000	.....
W. J. Averill.....	241.7	38.7	14.5	1,840	1884
W. N. Haskell.....	242.5	37	14.2	1,840	1884
Mutual Transit:					
Huron.....				2,500	.....
Minneapolis.....				2,500	.....
St. Paul.....				2,500	.....
Rhodes.....				2,500	.....

Steamers sold but still in service on the Great Lakes.

Line and steamer.	Length.	Beam.	Depth.	Capacity.	Built.
Erie Railroad Lake Line:	<i>Feet.</i>	<i>Feet.</i>	<i>Feet.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>	
Richardson.....	265.5	40.6	25	2,600	1893
Tioga.....	285.5	38.9	25.7	2,600	1885
Western Transit Co.:					
Mohawk.....				3,300	.....

TO MANUFACTURE AUTOMOBILE TIRES IN HABANA.

[Vice Consul L. A. Christy, Habana, Cuba.]

A firm to manufacture automobile tires and all kinds of rubber goods under the name of the "Cuban Tire & Rubber Co." has been established in this city. It is stated that it intends also to put in rubber-restoring machinery, thereby using old rubber that is to be purchased here.

THREE MONTHS' EXPORTS FROM GLASGOW TO UNITED STATES.

[Vice Consul Thomas H. Bevan, Glasgow, Scotland, Oct. 17.]

The total value of declared exports from Glasgow, Scotland, to the United States for the September quarter of 1917 amounted to \$1,920,879; as compared with \$1,902,265 for the same period the preceding year, showing a slight increase of \$18,614.

The following table gives the principal articles invoiced with their value:

Articles.	July-Sep- tember, 1916.	July-Sep- tember, 1917.	Articles.	July-Sep- tember, 1916.	July-Sep- tember, 1917.
Acids, miscellaneous.....	\$10,174	\$45,378	Knitted goods.....	\$633	\$1,061
Books.....	0,634	1,504	Leather, manufactures of.....	10,799	8,066
Carpets:			Linens.....		1,340
Arlminster.....	76,649	76,447	Machinery.....	18,679	10,714
Wilton.....	13,287	5,645	Magnesite, calcined.....	3,080	32,521
Clay tobacco pipes.....	2,021	978	Palms.....	7,626	4,583
Clothing, woolen.....	394	1,416	Paper, n. s. p. f.....	571	2,207
Corundum.....	11,316	24,408	Paper stock.....	65,475	134,559
Cotton goods.....	725,994	505,725	Preserved fruits.....	3,962	
Creosote.....	8,678		Sewing machinery.....	6,872	62,362
Cyanide of soda.....		76,272	Silk, manufactures of.....	863	3,585
Fishing tackle.....	2,354	3,503	Sulphate of ammonia.....	1,539	9,756
Flannels.....	15,293	75,476	Tapestries.....	2,719	6,850
Flax:			Wall-paper hangings.....	7,674	
Manufactures of.....	3,400	31,782	Whisky.....	416,503	500,822
Hackled.....	9,913	96,611	Wool, and manufactures of:		
Fire bricks.....	3,482	4,483	Pure wool.....		3,041
Grass seed.....	3,881	401	Manufactures of wool.....	6,178	
Herring.....	336,045	5,881	Woolens.....	1,277	861
Hides and skins:			Fancy worsteds.....	1,933	1,757
Calf.....	10,356		Fancy wovens.....	8,171	2,073
Horse.....	6,531		Plain wovens.....	1,052	
Pig.....	651	1,068	Woolen shawls.....	2,714	741
Hollands, Scotch.....	10,724	74,428	All other articles.....	47,412	86,657
Instruments, surveying.....	6,361	6,362			
Iron and steel.....	5,743	1,287			
Jute, manufactures of.....	0,905	8,368	Total.....	1,902,265	1,920,879

The items that show the largest increases are flax and its manufactures, Scotch hollands, paper stock, magnesite calcium, and sewing machines. The shipments of herring show the largest falling off, the exports in the past quarter being valued at only \$5,881 as compared with \$336,645 for the same period in 1916. This, however, is due to the Government's conservation of food stuffs. Whisky shipments show an increase over the corresponding period of the preceding year notwithstanding the fact that the exports were all made during the months of July and August. The local distillers state that the shipments to the United States during August last would have been double what they were had shipping facilities been available, as they had large orders on hand, which they were unable to deliver into the United States prior to midnight September 9, the date on which the prohibition section of the act of August 10 went into effect.

The exports to the Philippine Islands during the three months were valued at \$157,216, in comparison with \$137,898 for the same period in 1916.

It is reported that a ferry route is being projected to run from Skien, Norway, to some point on the Danish north coast. This will carry railroad cars and will facilitate through shipments to and from Germany through Jutland.

POST-WAR INDUSTRIAL STATUS OF WOMEN IN FRANCE.

[Consul J. E. Jones, Lyon, Sept. 7.]

One of the great sociological problems with which France will have to deal after the war will be the industrial status of women. Since the beginning of the war female labor has largely supplied the shortage caused by the mobilization of the men. Many of them have taken complete charge of important business interests; they are employed in banks and in technical institutions; factories and plants requiring great numbers of unskilled workers have found an ample supply among the women; they act as letter carriers, telegraph messengers, and street car, truck, and carriage drivers. The general consensus of opinion is that they have "made good," and that they have established for themselves a permanent place in the industrial and commercial life of France.

Lyon Training School for Women Workers.

It remained for the mayor of Lyon, Mr. Edouard Herriot, to take the first effective step in providing a professional training school for the higher technical development of women. This school will open its first session on October 1, 1917, and its curriculum will include a commercial course and a technical course of two years each. The passing of an examination is necessary for admission. The minimum age limit for entrance has been fixed at 16 years. Specialization will be the keynote of the new school.

The full program of studies for the commercial course includes commercial, industrial, and labor legislation; industrial property; patents; foreign commercial laws; commercial questions, including transportation, storage, exchange, banking operations, etc.; commercial and industrial mathematics, including discounts, values, bills of lading, coinage, and annuities; knowledge of manufactured products of France; political economy; stenography and typewriting; and foreign languages. The course of training for draftswomen and technical secretaries includes industrial design, mathematics, and its higher branches, theory and application of mechanics, technical and machine shop work, theory and application of electricity, and foreign languages. The matriculation fee will be 150 francs (about \$30) per quarter for the first year and 200 francs (about \$40) per quarter for the second year.

Increase in Number of Workwomen.

The question of the employment of women was foreseen at the time of the army mobilization in 1914. This was especially so at Lyon, where some of the large concerns undertook a general recruiting of women. It was an experiment, especially in the places requiring high technical skill. In order to meet the difficulties that naturally arose American machines and machine tools, which did their work automatically and needed only a directing hand, were purchased in large numbers. The munition factories took on great numbers of women, who developed rapidly into efficient operators, handling the most complicated machines as well as men could.

In spite of some restrictions women have progressively appeared in all the workshops. In the munition plants of Lyon 3 per cent of the 572 workers employed in June, 1915, were women. In 1916 31

per cent of the total of 6,081 workers were women; and this number rapidly increased until on May 19, 1917, out of a total of 12,045 workers, 6,066, or more than 50 per cent, were women. Of the total number of workwomen 855 were less than 18 years of age.

The wages paid to women are graduated according to the character of the work and to their capacity. The average varies between a minimum of 0.40 franc (about \$0.08 gold) and a maximum of 1.40 francs (about \$0.28 gold) per hour, which represents a daily wage of 4 to 14 francs (\$0.80 to \$2.80 gold).

As Substitutes for Men—Improving Working Conditions.

Scientific experiments made at one of the large munition plants in Lyon showed that in the production of shells a woman operates on 900 to 1,000 shells a day, handling each piece twice (in putting it in and taking it out of the lathe), making from 1,800 to 2,000 movements with a shell weighing 6 kilos (13 pounds). She thus moves, in her day's work, a total weight of 10 to 12 tons. This work requires great precision, yet women operatives have given general satisfaction. The manufacture and repair of tools and their mountings have proved to be quite a specialty with women workers, bringing out good professional ability and keen intelligence. Before the war this work was done only by men.

Great efforts are being made now to improve women's industrial surroundings and make her work congenial. Hygienic conditions are being improved and rest rooms provided. Extra holidays will be granted. There has been in existence since February 12, 1917, especially in the plants where raw material is made, certain allowances for expectant mothers. The amount of the allowance is fixed at 4.50 francs per day, when they rest, with a maximum of 40 days' rest, which limits the allowance to 180 francs (\$36). The payment is made every Saturday, from the second Saturday following the cessation of work, and ceases from the fifth payment; that is to say, when 140 francs has been disbursed. The remaining 40 francs is paid to the workwoman 15 days after the resumption of work.

During the first three months of the operation of this regulation the total assistance disbursed amounted to 4,256 francs, divided among 35 women. On the whole the department of allowance works satisfactorily. All cases are investigated with the greatest good will on the part of the administration, which has never refused to grant assistance to applicants. If both the father and the mother are employed at the plant the children are cared for during working hours at a specially organized infant asylum.

Advantages of Two-Shift System.

The division of the work between two squads of women has been tried in one of the Lyon munition plants. Squad A works from 6.15 a. m. to 2.15 p. m., with an interruption of 45 minutes for the midday meal. Squad B works from 2.30 to 9.30 p. m. with an interruption of 45 minutes for the evening meal. In order that the two shifts work the same number of hours, Squad B should remain until 10.30, but as the street-car service stops after 9.30 the women on the second shift leave at that time. However, as the shifts alternate each week no discrimination results from this shorter workday for the night shift.

This division of the workday gives satisfactory results; in fact, it shows remarkable advantages from both the industrial and the social point of view. On the industrial side the women produce more in a short workday than in an extended period, besides being less inclined to absent themselves from work; further, they do not feel the fatigue so keenly. The use of night shifts, whose production is often inferior, is avoided, and at the same time a material economy is effected in the general expenses, inspection, power, lighting, etc. These deductions are confirmed by facts, as witness the following comparison of the output of two similar industries at Lyon and Bourges: Putting up of the prime holder—Bourges, 1,200 pieces in 10 hours and 15 minutes; Lyon 1,100 to 1,150 pieces in 7 hours and 15 minutes. Marking of the rocket's body—Bourges, 1,200 pieces in 9 hours and a half; Lyon, 1,200 to 1,250 pieces in 7 hours and a quarter. Drilling the prime holder—Bourges, 3,200 pieces in 9 hours and a half; Lyon, 3,200 pieces in 7 hours and a quarter.

From the social point of view the workwoman gets important advantages from this division of the day; she is a shorter time outside her home, she can give a part of her time to household duties, and she can take care of her children if she has any. The workwomen, judging by the demand for employment, seem to appreciate this system. It is possible that this will be the way of organizing female work and a first solution of the complicated problems arising from their employment.

TREBIZOND-PLATANA TOBACCO CROP.

[Vice Consul I. Montesanto, Trebizond, Turkey, Sept. 28.]

The 1916 crop of tobacco in the Trebizond-Platana district was very small, but on account of the stock left over from previous years there is on hand at present 340,370 pounds at Trebizond and Platana, 98,700 pounds at different villages of the district, and 1,438,200 pounds deposited with the Tobacco Regie, a total of 1,877,270 pounds of tobacco.

Because of the continuance of the war it was generally believed that the crops of 1917 would not be very important, but the latest estimate gives 169,200 pounds for Trebizond and 4,906,800 pounds for the Platana district. Although these figures are only estimates, the season is so far advanced that the total given should be a fairly close approximation of the final outturn. The quality of this year's crop is reported to be very good.

While the estimate is a great deal below the average crops of years before the war, nevertheless, considering the state of war, the lack of labor, and the high wages demanded, the returns of the Platana district are remarkable. The high prices of tobacco and the liberty to cultivate tobacco whenever the farmers wish and in any quantity they desire, without being restricted, as formerly, by the Regie, are contributing to this very satisfactory result. Before the war prices of tobacco varied from \$0.04 to \$0.20 a pound, according to quality. Now prices are 40 to 70 rubles per batman, which equals \$0.47 to \$0.83 gold per pound.

MARKET FOR COOPERAGE STOCKS IN FRANCE.

[Vice Consul Azel D. Buler, Bordeaux, Oct. 12.]

The difficulties and inconveniences that are now experienced in maritime transportation, with the resultant effect upon imports, have produced a general dearth of cooperage stock in the southwestern part of France. This is one of the chief wine-producing regions of the world. It requires great stocks of oak barrel staves and iron hoops for the construction of containers to take care of the annual production of high-grade wines. These are exported from this region at all times during the year, both by rail and by boat.

Steps by Government to Provide Supply.

The Government, through the Ministry of Agriculture, is taking steps to meet the requirements. The first arrangements that have been made are those relative to the supply of iron hoops. The Bordeaux journal *La France de Bordeaux et du Sud-Ouest*, a daily paper, states:

With a view to giving satisfaction to a wish expressed by the General Council of the Department of the Gironde, on the subject of the importation of barrel hoops necessary to the production of wine containers, the Minister of Agriculture has intervened.

On the recommendation of the Minister of Armament, the Interministerial Commission for Metals has taken up for consideration the needs of the wine producers, and until further notice, as a means of providing the metal necessary for the manufacture of the hoops, there have been reserved to the Ministry of Agriculture some 490 tons per month, to be obtained from the contingents of steel allotted to France by the British Government. Inquiries relative to the furnishing of hoops must be transmitted in the usual form to the Ministry of Agriculture (office of agricultural information), at Paris.

In Touch With American Shippers.

Although this pertains only to the furnishing of iron hoops, it is believed that some action will soon be taken with regard to the supplying of barrels and barrel staves. On a number of occasions during the past few months the Bordeaux consulate has assisted in placing local buyers of wine-barrel stocks in touch with American shippers, and the reports from these efforts are encouraging. One house has sent an agent to the United States to make purchases for the members of a wine producers' society.

The desires of the local trade are for oak staves, shipped as shooks, so that they may be compactly loaded. The oak is a wood which gives little or no taste to the wine, regardless of the length of time it is stored. Considerable quantities of such staves were formerly imported from American lumber houses, but with that source no longer supplying the desired quantities, even old barrels are sold at a premium.

[A list of barrel-stock dealers and cooperage firms in the Bordeaux district may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 94438.]

CANADIAN BISCUIT FIRM WANTS PAPER CONTAINERS.

A biscuit manufacturer at Moncton, New Brunswick, desires to obtain paper containers for its product. The company has informed Consul E. Verne Richardson that the outside measurements of such containers should be 9½ by 9½ by 8½ inches, and they should be moisture proof. The name may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 94520.

SHIPMENTS OF TIN FROM HONGKONG.

[Consul General George E. Anderson, Hongkong, British China, Sept. 27.]

Shipments of South China tin to the United States during the past three months have been fairly in proportion to the high record set for the first half of the year. In July there was a prospect of a shortage of tin supplies in South China and other producing centers in the East, but since that time production has been increased somewhat, and, in spite of shipments to the United States during the past quarter valued at almost \$1,000,000, the market in Hongkong at present is somewhat easier and prices show a tendency to sag. Some of the more recent sales have probably been made of stocks heretofore held for speculation and now sold to prevent further losses.

A shipment was recently sent to the United States aggregating about \$250,000 in value which was of tin purchased in January and February, and had been held by the shipper. Declared exports of the metal to the United States during the September quarter were valued at \$946,097, as compared with \$108,390 in the same quarter of last year. Exports for the nine months ended September 30 were valued at \$3,264,652, as compared with \$1,235,632 in the first nine months of 1916 and with \$901,823 in the first nine months of 1915. The exports for the first nine months of this year are about twice those for the whole of 1913, which year held the highest record in the trade up to the present year, the total exports for that year to the United States being valued at \$1,632,213.

Exports According to Chamber of Commerce Returns.

Exports of tin to other portions of the world during the year to date have increased a little over 40 per cent, while the total shipments to all countries have increased about 58 per cent. The figures, according to the returns of the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce for the first nine months of 1916 and 1917, follow, the quantity being given in slabs of 112 pounds each:

Destination.	January- Septem- ber, 1916.	January- Septem- ber, 1917.
	<i>Slabs.</i>	<i>Slabs.</i>
Great Britain.....	22, 373	16, 920
Continent of Europe.....	4, 800	21, 800
United States and Canada.....	10, 829	22, 374
Total for nine months.....	38, 002	60, 594

High exchange has influenced in a marked way against the export of the metal, but the nine months' period closes with easier exchange and an easier tin market. The metal invoiced out of Hongkong in the past three months has been at 73.4 cents local currency per pound.

NORWAY IMPOSES "LUXURY TAX" ON PLEASURE BOATS.

[Vice Consul H. E. Carlson, Christiania.]

A notice from the Office of the Tax Collector at Christiania, Norway, dated September 27, 1917, reads:

Every owner of a private sailboat or motor or steam driven boat that is used for pleasure or for sport is required to report the boat for taxation. Sailboats having a value of not more than 3,000 crowns (\$804 at normal exchange) and motor boats valued at not more than 4,000 crowns (\$1,172) are exempted from the tax. However, all sailboats provided with a deck and all covered motor boats, irrespective of value, must be reported for taxation.

COMMERCE THROUGH THE SAULT STE. MARIE CANALS.

OCTOBER

Articles.	United States canal.		Canadian canal.		Total.	
	1916	1917	1916	1917	1916	1917
EASTBOUND.						
Copper.....short tons..	17,846	10,428	.....	42	17,846	10,470
Grain.....bushels..	3,566,538	2,773,359	3,294,414	1,318,039	6,860,952	4,091,399
Flour.....barrels..	1,097,540	669,920	570,710	514,020	1,668,250	1,204,940
Iron ore.....short tons..	7,629,311	7,046,799	1,299,267	1,085,489	8,918,578	8,132,288
Pig iron.....do.....	5,136	2,500	.....	.....	5,136	2,500
Lumber.....M feet..	49,787	47,214	1,387	233	51,174	47,447
Wheat.....bushels..	8,968,948	24,781,060	9,475,885	9,983,784	18,444,833	34,714,844
General merchandise.....short tons..	56,468	32,825	2,541	5,331	59,009	38,156
Passengers.....number..	40	13	479	304	519	317
WESTBOUND.						
Coal:						
Hard.....short tons..	272,350	337,139	7,000	22,500	279,350	357,639
Soft.....do.....	1,393,467	2,469,149	74,250	117,700	1,457,717	2,586,849
Flour.....barrels..	91	.....	.....	10	91	10
Grain.....bushels..	1,985	3,960	.....	.....	1,985	3,960
Manufactured iron.....short tons..	14,659	13,501	2,626	.....	17,285	13,501
Iron ore.....do.....	.....	1,013	.....	.....	.....	1,013
Salt.....barrels..	107,128	67,167	3,500	8,729	110,628	75,896
General merchandise.....short tons..	143,533	113,669	50,854	39,764	194,387	153,433
Passengers.....number..	13	.....	311	271	324	271
TOTAL.						
Freight:						
Eastbound.....short tons..	8,255,660	8,060,924	1,068,004	1,471,320	9,353,664	9,532,244
Westbound.....do.....	1,830,118	2,942,610	135,230	181,212	1,965,348	3,123,822
Total.....	10,085,778	10,993,534	1,203,234	1,652,532	11,919,012	12,646,066
Vessel passages.....number..	2,479	2,500	774	647	3,253	3,147
Registered tonnage.....net..	7,915,223	7,392,177	1,480,741	1,366,223	9,395,964	8,758,400

SEVEN MONTHS ENDING OCTOBER.

EASTBOUND.						
Copper.....short tons..	97,633	90,272	3,882	7,523	101,515	97,795
Grain.....bushels..	33,521,235	34,330,565	34,658,203	14,928,133	68,179,438	53,258,698
Flour.....barrels..	5,405,668	3,000,451	2,796,471	2,675,398	8,202,139	6,275,849
Iron ore.....short tons..	45,648,245	42,803,951	10,640,683	10,101,665	56,288,928	52,907,616
Pig iron.....do.....	35,032	8,224	.....	.....	35,032	8,224
Lumber.....M feet..	290,490	307,504	12,093	8,558	302,573	316,063
Wheat.....bushels..	102,251,129	82,943,802	72,927,588	46,538,548	175,140,717	129,482,350
General merchandise.....short tons..	228,033	169,472	52,900	47,630	280,933	217,103
Passengers.....number..	12,035	6,324	15,610	12,387	27,645	18,711
WESTBOUND.						
Coal:						
Hard.....short tons..	1,808,021	2,029,298	80,810	148,950	1,888,831	2,178,248
Soft.....do.....	11,660,484	12,390,712	827,411	964,671	12,487,895	13,355,383
Flour.....barrels..	361	.....	12,960	10	13,321	99
Grain.....bushels..	6,695	5,885	.....	.....	6,695	5,885
Manufactured iron.....short tons..	118,245	76,640	15,441	12,683	133,726	89,323
Iron ore.....do.....	14,479	45,866	14,448	12,794	28,927	58,000
Salt.....barrels..	637,330	412,000	45,787	84,329	683,117	496,389
General merchandise.....short tons..	844,675	801,380	287,585	239,037	1,132,260	1,043,417
Passengers.....number..	11,235	5,639	15,473	18,717	26,708	19,376
TOTAL.						
Freight:						
Eastbound.....short tons..	50,773,287	47,179,880	13,826,001	12,120,370	64,599,288	59,300,250
Westbound.....do.....	14,541,689	15,408,909	1,233,532	1,390,183	15,775,221	16,798,903
Total.....	65,314,976	62,588,699	15,059,533	13,510,553	80,374,509	76,099,253
Vessel passages.....number..	16,261	14,866	5,837	4,647	22,098	19,533
Registered tonnage.....net..	49,631,360	45,133,997	11,465,844	10,366,801	61,097,204	55,800,798

The Thulins (Swedish) joint-stock company's aeroplane factory is making such great progress that the directorate has again decided to increase its present share capital from \$804,000 to \$1,408,000.

VALUE OF CANADIAN FIELD CROPS.

[Consul Felix S. S. Johnson, Kingston, Ontario, Oct. 29.]

The value of Canadian field crops will be more than \$1,000,000,000 this year, according to reports from Provincial and Government bureaus. This amount does not include pasture lands, fruit returns, tobacco, clover seed, hemp, and other smaller crops. The estimated values at current prices of some of the crops are: Oats, \$232,280,000; barley, \$58,620,000; rye, \$6,059,000; peas, \$5,488,000; beans, \$6,366,000; buckwheat, \$5,000,000; flax, \$14,000,000; corn for huskers, \$7,000,000; roots, \$16,000,000; hay and clovers, \$160,000,000; fodder corn, \$10,000,000; sugar beets, \$600,000.

The quality of this year's crops surpasses all past records. Out of 717 cars of western wheat inspected, 660 were contract grades (45 No. 1 hard and 522 No. 1 northern). Millers expressed satisfaction at the new wheat brought from the western fields and declare the crop to be the "best ever."

Report on Means of Development.

It is evident that after the European war agriculture will be one of the leading branches to receive attention. A report of the recent investigation by a special parliamentary committee into the means of developing the agricultural, industrial, and trade interests of Canada is especially interesting. It emphasizes the agricultural phase of the subject and urges that after the war readjustment should be effected by developing and improving farm production.

Nineteen recommendations were made by the committee, and all referred to the development of these interests. Greater cooperation between the Canadian Government and the Provinces in the handling of public lands; the encouragement of mixed farming; practical farm loans; and the increase of agricultural revenue, with clauses referring to the problem of getting the returned soldier on the land and of developing small industries for the employment of surplus agricultural labor between seasons, were some of the important features of the report, emphasizing the importance of agriculture now and after the European war.

[Articles on this year's Canadian crops were published in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for Sept. 28 and Oct. 29, 1917.]

DEPOSITS IN SWEDISH POSTAL SAVINGS BANK.

[Vice Consul Arthur E. J. Reilly, Stockholm, Oct. 23.]

The total deposits in the postal savings bank of Sweden during August this year were \$541,755 divided between 60,360 depositors. The corresponding figures for 1916 were \$423,606 and 50,017 depositors. In August this year 10,182 depositors withdrew \$246,743, compared with \$206,637 withdrawn by 9,818 depositors during the same period of 1916. From January to August 31, 1917, there have been withdrawn \$2,164,221 and deposited \$3,691,317. The corresponding figures for the same period during 1916 were \$1,920,376 withdrawn and \$2,878,071 deposited.

The depositors' balance, which at the beginning of 1917 amounted to \$14,482,741, was at the end of August, 1917, \$16,431,133.

LUMBER INDUSTRY IN BUKOWINA.

[Abstract of article in *Frankfurter Zeitung*, Sept. 19.]

The Russian operations in Bukowina (Austria-Hungary) have resulted in heavy damage to the lumber industry. A great deal of lumber was used on the spot and a great deal more was sent to Russia for use there. Almost all lumber yards are now empty and in many cases the lumber mills have been dismantled by the Russians. In the last few weeks 200,000 to 250,000 cubic meters of sawn lumber have been sent in the direction of Odessa.

Heavy losses have been caused to the Bukowine Griechisch-Orientalische Religionsfonds, to which about two-thirds of the Bukowina lumber belongs. These losses were due not only to the fact that many of the trees were cut down, but also to the fact that the Bukowina-Carpathian front went through the heart of the timber-region. This destruction is particularly serious for Germany because of the fact that the owners of a large part of these woods were bound by long-standing contracts to deliver all their felled trees to German sawmills.

The Bukowina Lumber Industry Co., which is largely controlled by the Anglo Bank and the Austrian Lands Bank, suffered the greatest damage and losses. However, it is also true that of the largest 10 sawmills, only 1 is in such condition that it may be quickly repaired and reequipped and made ready for operation. The entire machinery of 3 of the sawmills was taken away and 4 other sawmills were burned to the ground. Two of these belong to the Union Forstindustrie-Gesellschaft and one to Göts & Co. The total damage to the Bukowina lumber industry can not be accurately estimated but it reaches into many millions of marks.

AUSTRALIA NEEDS MOTOR-CAR BODIES.

[Consul General J. I. Brittain, Sydney, New South Wales, Sept. 26.]

Efforts are being made to obtain permission to import bodies for motor cars into Australia to supply the demand until such time as domestic factories can be equipped to manufacture them in sufficient quantities. It is pointed out by those interested in the trade that at least 10,000 bodies will be required within the next year, and that it is extremely doubtful whether one-fifth that number can be manufactured in Australia with the factories' present equipment. The normal output of motor-car bodies in Australia is estimated at 1,100 a year.

LOSSES OF THE SPANISH MERCHANT MARINE.

[Consul General Carl Bailey Hurst, Barcelona, Oct. 3.]

The losses of the Spanish merchant marine on account of submarines between August 17, 1915, when the *Isidoro* was sunk, and June 16, 1917, the date of the sinking of the *Eriaga*, has been 41 vessels, with a total tonnage of 92,508. Three of the vessels lost were of over 4,000 tons, 6 of over 3,000 tons, 17 over 2,000 tons, while the remaining vessels ranged between 1,000 and 2,000 tons each. Two vessels were sunk in 1915, 20 in 1916, and 19 in the first six months of 1917.

PROPAGANDA TO INCREASE THE CONSUMPTION OF COFFEE.

[Consul Charles L. Hoover, São Paulo, Brazil, Oct. 5.]

The President of the State of São Paulo has just approved a law that imposes a tax of 100 reis (a little more than 2½ cents United States) per sack on all coffee exported from the State, the proceeds of which tax are to be used for a propaganda to increase the consumption of coffee in foreign countries, principally in the United States, although some work will be done in Europe and Japan. [See COMMERCE REPORTS for Sept. 18, 1917.]

The law provides that the tax shall be collected by the railroads in conjunction with the freight, the roads accounting to the State treasury and depositing the collections at the end of each month. It is now estimated that a fund of at least \$300,000 (United States) per year will be produced as a result of the application of the tax.

The State government is to contract with the Promoting Society for the Defense of Coffee (A Sociedade Promotora da Defesa do Cafe, address, São Paulo, Brazil) to carry on the propaganda. It is not expected that the society will undertake any advertising on its own account, but publicity agents who wish to place proposals before the association should address it direct.

MEXICAN FREIGHT RATES ON CEREALS REDUCED.

[Vice Consul Luther K. Zabriskie, Mexico City, Oct. 20.]

The issue of *El Universal* for October 20, 1917, states that the General Director of the Constitutional Railways, with the object of obviating difficulties met with in importing cereals and of contributing toward a lower price for corn, the principal article of diet among the Mexican people, has ordered still another reduction of the freight rates amounting almost to 50 per cent.

In future a ton of corn that formerly paid 34 pesos (Mexican peso=\$0.55 United States currency) for transportation from Laredo, Tex., to Mexico City will not cost the importers more than 18 pesos, 27 centavos.

The General Director of the Constitutional Railways has informed the American consulate general that the reduction applies throughout the Mexican Republic.

USE OF ELECTRICITY ON FARMS IN NEW ZEALAND.

[Consul General Alfred A. Winslow, Auckland, Sept. 4.]

Much attention has been given to the advanced uses of electricity in the farming and dairying districts of the South Island of New Zealand, in the vicinity of the Lake Coleridge Government hydroelectric plant. This section takes in the country surrounding Christchurch. Electric power is used extensively by dairymen about their barns and sheds for lighting and the operation of milking machines, creameries, etc. In one case a farmer reports that the charge per annum covering all of these uses was only \$87.60 for a herd of 60 cows.

The Government now has under consideration a big project for a hydroelectric station in the North Island. It is expected that this will provide power as cheap for the use of the general public as has been furnished in the South Island.

PROPOSALS FOR GOVERNMENT SUPPLIES AND CONSTRUCTION.

[Correspondence should be direct with the offices named, and specifications and other information can usually be obtained at the points where the goods are to be delivered or the work is to be performed. In cases where the time limit is too short to permit firms to submit tenders, they should ask to be placed on the mailing lists of such offices to receive notices calling for future supplies or work of a similar nature.]

Bulkhead, No. 4900.—Sealed proposals will be received at the United States Engineer Office, Customhouse, New Orleans, La., until December 5, 1917, for bulkhead at Southwest Pass, Mississippi River.

Sale of steamboat, No. 4901.—Sealed proposals will be received by the Superintendent, Fisheries Station, Woods Hole, Mass., until November 27, 1917, for the sale of the wooden steamboat, *Blue Wing*, 55 feet long, 12 feet beam, and 4½ feet draft, complete, with engine, boiler, and machinery.

Charter of launch, No. 4902.—Sealed proposals will be received by the Commanding Officer, Coast and Geodetic Survey steamer *Hydrographer*, Mobile, Ala., until November 28, 1917, for the charter of a launch for surveying purposes in Mississippi Sound and Mobile Bay.

Awnings, No. 4903.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the Chief Clerk, Department of Commerce, Nineteenth Street and Pennsylvania Avenue NW., Washington, D. C., until November 17, 1917, for recovering 237 awnings belonging to the department.

Sale of steamer, No. 4904.—Sealed proposals will be received by the Superintendent, Fisheries Station, Homer, Minn., until November 28, 1917, for the sale of the wooden river steamer *Curlew*, 79 feet long, 20 feet beam and 8 feet 4 inches draft, complete, with engine, boiler, and machinery.

Stone, No. 4905.—Sealed proposals will be received at the United States Engineer Office, Customhouse, New Orleans, La., until December 11, 1917, for furnishing and delivering stone for Head of Passes and Southwest Pass, Mississippi River.

Repair of vessel, No. 4906.—Sealed proposals will be received by the Lighthouse Inspector, Baltimore, Md., until November 28, 1917, for docking, sheathing, and repairing light vessel No. 2.

SOUTH AFRICA SEEKS PAPER AND FIBER MILK BOTTLES.

[Vice Consul Charles H. Heisler, Cape Town, Sept. 10.]

A citizen of Cape Province, South Africa, has requested that American manufacturers of sanitary (paper and fiber) milk bottles who desire to extend their trade to this country transmit descriptive catalogues of their articles with price lists. He states that if he can obtain a suitable sanitary bottle at a satisfactory price, large orders may be placed by him through a New York commission house with offices in South Africa. Payment will be cash in New York.

[The name of the dealer mentioned may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 94412.]

OFFICES OF THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE.**DISTRICT OFFICES.**

NEW YORK: 784 Customhouse.
BOSTON: 1801 Customhouse.
CHICAGO: 504 Federal Building.
ST. LOUIS: 402 Third National Bank Building.
NEW ORLEANS: 1020 Hibernia Bank Building.
SAN FRANCISCO: 307 Customhouse.
SEATTLE: 348 Henry Building.

COOPERATIVE OFFICES.

CLEVELAND: Chamber of Commerce.
CINCINNATI: Chamber of Commerce.
CINCINNATI: General Freight Agent, Southern Railway, 96 Ingalls Building.
LOS ANGELES: Chamber of Commerce.
PHILADELPHIA: Chamber of Commerce.
CHATTANOOGA: South American Agent, Southern Railway System.
PORTLAND, OREG.: Chamber of Commerce.
DAYTON: Greater Dayton Association.

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COMMERCE REPORTS



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No. 267 Washington, D. C., Wednesday, November 14 1917

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JAPANESE POSTAL SAVINGS REACH HIGH MARK.

[Consul General George H. Scidmore, Yokohama, Oct. 11.]

The Japan Advertiser states that for the first time since the inauguration of the postal savings bank system in Japan deposits in the Government savings bank have reached more than 400,000,000 yen (\$199,400,000). The figures registered yesterday were 400,238,000 yen (\$199,518,643). Compared with the corresponding date in 1916 the total represents an increase of 116,000,000 yen (\$57,826,000). "This speaks much," says the Advertiser, "for the prosperity that all classes of people in Japan are enjoying because of the war."

GERMANY'S COAL PRODUCTION.

According to provisional figures published in the Nachrichten fur Handel Industrie und Landwirtschaft, the output of coal, lignite, coke, and coal and lignite briquets in Germany during 1913-1915 was in metric tons of 2,204.6 pounds:

Product.	1913	1914	1915
	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>
Coal.....	191,511,154	161,535,224	146,712,350
Lignite.....	87,116,343	83,946,906	88,366,554
Coke.....	32,167,716	27,324,712	26,359,430
Coal briquets.....	5,823,776	5,948,929	6,392,484
Lignite briquets.....	24,447,879	21,448,600	23,350,404

LARGE DECREASE IN IRISH EMIGRATION.

[Vice Consul C. C. Broy, Dublin, Oct. 18.]

During the nine months ended September, 1917, there were only 1,650 emigrants from Ireland, a decrease of 3,831 from the corresponding period in 1916. The emigrants in 1917 went to the following countries: England and Wales, 788; Scotland, 705; United States, 83; Canada, 40; South Africa, 12; Australia, 12; New Zealand, 9; and other countries, 1. Emigration to the United States as compared with the first nine months of 1916 shows a decrease of 2,932.

TOBACCO SITUATION IN GERMANY.

[Translation from *Bellage sur Germania*, Sept. 24.]

Announcement that Holland had raised its export prohibition on tobacco caused some hopes in tobacco circles that the present scarcity would soon come to an end. These hopes have now been destroyed, however, for the free importation of tobacco is not yet in sight. All imports of this product have to take place through the *Tabak-handelsgesellschaft* at Bremen or by virtue of licenses issued by this concern; and the distribution of imported tobacco is effected under its supervision. Only the most necessary amounts are imported in order to avoid, as far as possible, an unfavorable influence on the German rate of exchange. Thus the imported amounts have little relation with those which were received before the war commenced. Most of the factories are permitted to have about two-thirds of their prewar consumption. From the output of these plants, which is considerably reduced, 75 per cent is taken for Army use, leaving a very small amount for distribution to the civil population. There is little present prospect of remedying the situation, which is admittedly rather serious.

The high prices which must be paid for cigars and smoking tobacco may in no way be attributed to manipulations, which are alleged to have been carried on by the tobacco dealers. The high prices simply result from the circumstances.

The question of rationing smokers has been minutely considered, but it does not seem to be feasible.

SWEDISH POTATO CROP NORMAL.

[Consul Wallace J. Young, Göteborg, Oct. 22.]

The potato crop of Sweden for this year is estimated at 1,800,000 metric tons, or about the average of that of the last five years. A press report on the crop stated that 80,000 tons should go to the starch factories, 60,000 tons for evaporation, 280,000 tons for seeding, 860,000 tons for human food, 340,000 tons for cattle feed, and 180,000 tons calculated to be lost through rotting.

While the figures for the wheat and rye crops are not yet published, the yield is said to be small, but the quality, in general, good.

The area planted in sugar beets is reported to have been smaller than usual, but the yield has been very good. The sugar content, however, is very low.

INCREASE IN PASSENGER RATES ON MEXICAN RAILROAD.

[Vice Consul Luther K. Zabriskie, Mexico City, Oct. 30; excerpt from "*El Pueblo*" of Oct. 30.]

The Secretary of Communications and Public Works has authorized the manager of the Mexican Railway, in compliance with the petition made some days ago, to put into effect, beginning on November 1, 1917, the 25 per cent increase in the passenger rates. The proceeds of this increase, as in the case of the one granted to the Mexican Electric Tramway Co., is destined for the benefit of the Federal Treasury.

[The announcement of the increase in the fares of the tramway company was published in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for Nov. 5.]

LIGHTING PROBLEMS IN DENMARK.

[Commercial Attaché Erwin W. Thompson, Copenhagen, Oct. 13.]

The Government commission that has been investigating the acetylene lamps offered for sale, after having refused sanction to several hundred because of the danger of explosion, has finally discovered some models that are considered safe and has now approved a large number. This method of lighting will now become general as soon as arrangements can be made to import from Norway and elsewhere enough carbide to supply the country, especially for people who have no gas or electricity or kerosene. It is estimated that 200,000 acetylene lamps are now in process of manufacture.

Greenland whale oil is being tried for lighting. Usually it is very smelly and smoky, but it is thought some new models may be developed. Whale oil costs in Copenhagen about \$2.20 per gallon. At this price a 2-candlepower lamp would cost about 1 cent per hour to burn.

Kerosene for lamps is now rationed to people who have no other lights at the rate of half a gallon per month, and at a price regulated by the Government at 72 cents per gallon.

Theaters and restaurants must close by 10 p. m. to save lights.

The distillation of all kinds of alcohol except for industrial uses is prohibited. A large part of the available alcohol will be needed for burning in the new incandescent lamps. It is estimated that one-third of the normal production will be sufficient for all except potable purposes, and it is estimated that 2,000 tons of grain will be saved.

A general "committee of inquiry" has been appointed by the Government to study lighting and heating and all other measures of domestic economy in order to make the most of the native resources.

TANNERS SEEK HIDES OF SHARKS AND PORPOISES.

As a result of the policy adopted by the United States Bureau of Fisheries of furnishing the skins of sharks and other fishes to persons who wish to experiment with these products, more than 40 tanners have had an opportunity to give them a trial, and several companies are now in the market for the raw hides of sharks and porpoises.

The bureau recently revised its circular on the subject of skinning sharks and curing and boxing the skins for shipment, and has added illustrations showing where the cuts should be made in taking off the skin and giving an outline of a skin properly taken off. This information, together with the statement that tanners desire to obtain the raw materials, is being communicated to fishermen, and the latter are being urged to furnish the tanners with supplies. The names of tanners and the prices they are willing to pay are included in the circular.

Some cabinetmakers in this country still use the skins of certain sharks for polishing purposes. The skins that heretofore have been used are those of one of the European sharks. The Bureau of Fisheries is now determining whether the skins of some of the sharks on our own coasts are not equally well suited for this purpose.

URUGUAYAN WOOL CLIP AND MARKET CONDITIONS.

[Consul William Dawson, Montevideo, Oct. 6.]

It is generally believed that this year's wool clip in Uruguay will be unusually satisfactory as respects both quality and quantity. The wool season covers the twelve months from October 1 to September 30. Wool is clipped from September to November and exported from October to June principally, the heaviest shipping months being December, January, and February. Weather conditions have been very favorable for sheep during the past few months and the flocks are in excellent condition. There have been no epidemics and the percentage of lambs born was high. The wool is reported to be very fine, well grown, and unusually free from seed. An exporter who has had many years' experience in Uruguay expresses the opinion that this year's clip may establish a new record for quality.

The probable output of wool during the season just commencing is variously estimated at 80,000 to 110,000 bales, a conservative figure being about 95,000 bales. The bale is assumed to weigh 450 kilos (992 pounds) or roughly 1,000 pounds; however, it sometimes weighs as much as 500 kilos (1,100 pounds). An exporter very well informed prophesies that during the 12 months beginning October 1, 1917, the port of Montevideo will export from 90,000 to 92,000 bales of wool, while 8,000 to 10,000 bales may be shipped from Salto, Paysandu, and Mercedes to Buenos Aires for export. (It should be noted that Uruguayan exports will include a certain amount of wool from the Brazilian State of Rio Grande do Sul, which may be expected to offset local consumption and perhaps leave a surplus of 4,000 or 5,000 bales to be added to the Uruguayan clip available for exportation.)

Wool Shipments from Montevideo During Past Three Seasons.

A canvass of leading exporters seems to indicate that wool shipments from Montevideo during the coming season will be from 15 to 20 per cent above those during the period from October 1, 1916, to September 30, 1917. According to nonofficial figures prepared by a specialist and generally considered reliable by wool shippers, bankers, and others interested, Montevideo wool shipments for the 1916-17 campaign reached the total of 77,712 bales. The generally anticipated increase of 15 to 20 per cent over this figure would give from 89,000 to 93,000 bales for the 1917-18 campaign.

The specialist just mentioned shows wool shipments from Montevideo to have been as follows during the last three campaigns (it will be noted that these figures refer not to the calendar, but to the market and shipping year—from October 1 to September 30—and are consequently of especial interest at this time):

Exported to—	1914-15	1915-16	1916-17	Exported to—	1914-15	1915-16	1916-17
	<i>Bales.</i>	<i>Bales.</i>	<i>Bales.</i>		<i>Bales.</i>	<i>Bales.</i>	<i>Bales.</i>
Barcelona.....	2,663	8,650	2,007	Liverpool.....	1,001	923	350
Denmark.....	1,896			Marseille and Bordeaux.....	991	2,007	1,737
Holland.....	2,296			Havre.....			253
Norway.....	5,031			Buenos Aires.....			13,745
Sweden.....		3,338					
Genoa.....	48,400	28,873	12,326				
New York.....	13,386	16,409	46,704	Total.....	81,164	60,250	77,712

Prices Continue to Rise.

Wool exported to Buenos Aires is undoubtedly principally, if not entirely, intended for reshipment to other countries. Shipments credited to New York include wool for Boston and possibly other American ports. As already stated, the bale of wool is assumed to weigh, roughly, 1,000 pounds.

The price of wool is quoted per unit of 10 kilos (22 pounds). Before the war a price of 3.80 pesos (\$3.93) per 10 kilos was considered satisfactory. Since 1914 the price has risen steadily and reached 10 and 11 pesos (\$10.34 and \$11.37) toward the close of the 1916-17 shipping season (April, May, 1917). During the past few months rising prices have been reported steadily, and wool has been quoted recently at around 14 pesos (\$14.48). This is for wool "al barrer"—that is, "the run of the flock"—and includes belly wool. Reports of sales at 15 pesos (\$15.51) are not lacking, although they are not confirmed by exporters, who, however, claim to know of sales at 14 and 14.50 pesos (\$14.48 and \$14.99).

The prices mentioned are for wool delivered at Montevideo. The cost of placing the wool on board is about 70 centesimos (82 cents) per 10 kilos. Wool at 14 pesos is worth 65.7 cents per pound.

Uncertainty as to Price Movement.

The extraordinary rise in the price of wool during the "dead" season, or winter months, has created a peculiar market situation. Of five leading exporters interviewed, one believes that the price will not decline and may rise, while another expects a firm market until late in December. Three others look for a considerable drop within the next few months, or even weeks, and one of these thinks it not impossible that the price may decline by as much as 40 per cent. All the firms seen agree that, until wool begins to come into Montevideo and more exact information as to purchases and shipments is available, the trade itself will be more or less in the dark as to what may be anticipated. Those who forecast a drop in the market base their opinion on the lack of interest of American buyers at present prices and the supposition that the American demand will be met largely by Australian wool.

Exporters report comparatively little buying under orders from abroad as a result of the high prices demanded by local producers and holders. A certain amount of wool has been contracted for by Italian, Spanish, Japanese, and Dutch buyers, according to reports, Italy being the principal taker thus far. Latest reports would seem to indicate that, in view of the attitude of American importers who refuse to buy at present prices, European purchasers have practically ceased operations. Estimates made by the five exporters interviewed place the amount of wool already contracted for by the export trade at 15,000 to 25,000 bales. Most of this has been bought under orders from abroad, although small quantities appear to have been purchased by exporters on speculation.

Growing Interest of Japanese Buyers—Export Duty.

The growing interest of Japan in the Uruguayan wool market is an interesting development. Japanese buyers are reported to have purchased small lots at good prices last year; and the recent establishment of a regular Japanese steamship service to Buenos Aires, which, it is reported, may also include Montevideo, is expected to lead to

a growing trade between the two countries. This office, in its report of July 16, 1917, entitled "Japanese Commerce with River Plate," noted the reported shipment of 700 bales of Montevideo wool on a Japanese steamer sailing from Buenos Aires. [See COMMERCE REPORTS for Aug. 20, 1917.]

At the time of writing, the wool trade is apparently much agitated over the reported intention of the Uruguayan Government to place an export duty of 4 per cent ad valorem on wool. At present, exported wool other than combed wool is subject to a specific duty of 1.30 pesos per 100 kilos (6.1 mills per pound). A main objection raised by the trade to the proposed change in rate is that the 4 per cent ad valorem duty would be assessed on a valuation to be fixed every month according to ruling market prices. It is pointed out that a shifting duty of this kind would seriously affect the stability of export transactions.

NEW ZEALAND'S IMPORTS FOR EIGHT MONTHS.

[New Zealand Trade Review and Price Current.]

Statistics have been prepared showing the values of the imports into New Zealand of some of the more important articles during the eight months ended August 31, 1915, 1916, and 1917, respectively. During the eight months of the present year the aggregates of the different divisions of imports were: Soft goods, £3,005,167; hardware, £1,416,393; foodstuffs, £1,313,930; beverages, £649,970; miscellaneous, £7,448,075; total, £13,833,535. The total apart from specie shows a decrease of £2,127,506, or 13½ per cent, but is £811,742, or 6 per cent, ahead of 1915. The foodstuffs section is the only one showing an increase (owing to heavy imports of grain, flour, and sugar). There are several individual instances of very heavy decreases, while some lines show substantial increase. Figures for some of the eight months' imports (£=\$4.8665) are:

Articles.	1915	1916	1917	Articles.	1915	1916	1917
Soft goods:				Beverages:			
Apparel.....	£594,486	£745,551	£666,734	Whisky.....	£174,685	£280,920	£231,490
Boots and shoes	206,145	229,223	261,491	Tea.....	275,023	274,293	296,163
Carpet and oil-cloth.....	107,441	149,491	112,182	Miscellaneous:			
Drapery.....	135,944	183,369	130,306	Books, papers, music.....	136,080	143,057	137,502
Hosiery.....	118,765	231,933	144,140	Coal.....	258,824	141,068	196,156
Cotton piece goods.....	636,503	1,012,889	862,400	Corn sacks, woolpacks.....	191,442	173,706	177,907
Silk piece goods	124,154	192,120	178,313	Glass and glass-ware.....	111,460	130,248	92,050
Woolen piece goods.....	209,592	515,224	417,669	Leather.....	93,020	133,740	179,953
Hardware, etc.:				Manures.....	267,247	268,770	210,610
General hardware.....	171,090	237,142	192,822	Motor vehicles.....	415,576	593,519	430,196
Iron—				Oils—			
Bar, bolt, rod	103,355	175,133	76,095	Benzine, etc.....	262,213	349,538	429,615
Corrugated sheet.....	131,733	175,286	27,896	Kerosene.....	136,143	120,069	70,954
Pipes and fittings.....	150,653	167,675	88,933	Paints, colors, varnish.....	105,720	142,401	118,973
Machinery,				Printing paper.....	156,533	188,225	151,597
electric.....	205,449	310,228	400,848	Seeds, grass, clover.....	186,600	104,894	151,739
Tin, sheet and block.....	76,035	129,386	124,895	Tobacco.....	203,180	249,722	190,655
Foodstuffs:				Cigarettes.....	123,946	183,996	91,313
Railway plant.....	149,054	71,865	28,003	Timber, hewn and sawn.....	195,014	89,167	113,301
Confectionery.....	96,574	126,398	33,974	Specie.....	834,019	1,044,610	176,635
Dried fruit.....	109,981	137,708	120,604	Other articles.....	5,368,016	6,863,382	5,641,524
Flour.....	85,998	36,970	105,557	Total.....	13,679,177	16,839,216	13,833,535
Grain, unprepared.....	214,014	89,355	247,788				
Sugar.....	535,780	436,061	522,589				

USE OF PAINTS IN THE ADEN DISTRICT.

[Consul Addison E. Southard, Aden, Arabia.]

The consumption of paints of various classes in Aden amounts to \$21,000 per annum. The value of turpentine, brushes, putty, and other painters' supplies averages \$1,600 per annum. Preservative paints, such as zinc and lead pigments in oil, lead all other classes. Ready-mixed oil paints, enamel or carriage paints, and varnishes—which so far as their most important local uses are concerned may be classed as decorative paints—follow in the order named.

The preservative paints that are sold in this market are almost exclusively British. Two well-known manufacturers have had their goods established here for years, and to the natives good paints and the trade names of these manufacturers are synonymous.

Turpentine Received from United States.

On account of the increased prices and inability to obtain sufficient supplies of the old-established paints it is likely that local importers will find it necessary to introduce other brands. They are expecting shortly to receive shipments of paint from a factory which is being established in Calcutta. So far as the Aden Port Trust returns show, the United States never has contributed to the paint imports here, but under the heading of painters' supplies for 1914 there were received from the United States 28 hundredweight of turpentine, valued at \$598.

The demand for paints at Aden has noticeably diminished since the Turkish Yemen ports were closed to trade. Normally considerable quantities of the zinc and lead pigments in oil were reexported to those places, where they were used principally in painting dhows, lighters, and similar small craft.

Trade Among the Boat Owners.

The bulk of the paints used in the port of Aden consists of zinc and lead pigments in oil. These are in greatest demand for use in painting dhows. A fair number of the native boats is built in Aden, and many from the neighboring native ports come here for repairs, painting, etc. The owners of the considerable number of large dhows which come down from Maskat and the Persian Gulf during the winter months, to bring dates, carpets, and pearls to Aden, also take advantage of their stay here to give their boats a new coat of paint. When he can afford it the dhow owner will use a black zinc or lead paint for the bottom, zinc white for the sides, and zinc or lead yellow for the other parts of the craft, with the exception of the captain's quarters, which are finished with oil paints in such bright colors as blue or red.

Lime for whitewashing is produced locally. There are said to be in the Turkish Yemen great quantities of red and blue stones which can be crushed into a powder suitable for making water paints. None of these red or blue stones, or of the powder made from them, were found in Aden shops.

[A list of importers of paints in Aden may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 94251.]

A dry dock is to be built at Skien, Norway, to accommodate 3,000-ton ships.

ASSOCIATIONS PROVIDE CREDIT FOR PHILIPPINE FARMERS.

[J. F. Boomer, correspondent, Manila, Sept. 23.]

Agricultural credit cooperative associations, organized under an act of the legislature which was passed February 5, 1915, are now beginning to make themselves felt throughout the farming regions of the Philippines. The measure that provided for these associations, although adopted more than two and a half years ago, was not put into operation until the current year, partly because it was defective in some particulars and partly because there was no person sufficiently familiar with the objects it sought to accomplish to take the leadership in the formation of the projected associations.

The measure was enacted in the hope of supplying the small farmer with the means of financing his operations. The Agricultural Bank, operated by the Government, already furnished the large planter with loans on his real estate to finance his planting and marketing, but no sources of credit were available for the planter of a few acres.

The act authorizes the incorporation of not more than one society to be known as an agricultural credit association in each municipality where a group of farmers desires to take advantage of the law. The organizations are formed in accordance with the provisions of the corporation law. The shares of stock may be of any value up to 5 pesos, or \$2.50, although no limit is set on the amount of the capital stock of any one society. The municipal treasurer is made the treasurer ex officio of the credit association, and the accounts are under the supervision of the insular auditor. The organization of the societies, their by-laws, and operations are under the supervision of the director of agriculture.

Purposes for Which Credit is Provided.

The societies are authorized to engage in operations designed to extend the credit of the members for purposes of—

(1) Meeting the expense of registering land under the Torrens system or purchasing and securing title to new land.

(2) Obtaining funds for the purchase of live stock, fertilizers, seeds, preparations for the destruction of pests, and machinery or implements to be used exclusively for agricultural purposes.

(3) Raising of incumbrances in agricultural land.

(4) The payment of expenses in connection with the planting, cultivation, harvesting, or care of any agricultural crop or product or storing it until marketed, and for irrigation.

The paid-up capital of the association and the other funds at its disposal under certain limitations may be loaned upon the harvested agricultural products when they are available, but the sum loaned must not exceed 50 per cent of the value of such products. The association may also open credits on current account with its members, charging interest. All such loans made or accounts opened must be secured by the personal signatures of persons known to be solvent or by pledges or liens on property. The association is also authorized to acquire, by purchase or otherwise, seeds, fertilizers, preparations for the destruction of pests, machinery, live stock, and agricultural implements, and sell them to the members. It may also contract loans and receive deposits under certain restrictions to increase its working and circulating capital.

Many Organized During Past Year.

Great numbers of these associations have been organized in various parts of the islands during the last year. The capital of most of them is 1,000 pesos (\$500) or less. The Bureau of Agriculture has conducted a campaign for their organization, and keeps a member of its staff who is well informed on the subject of rural credits, with a corps of assistants, constantly employed in supervising the societies and their operations. This direct intervention on the part of the Government has given them a standing throughout the country that they would not otherwise have attained so soon, and much assistance to the small farmer is promised through them.

Recently the largest firm of machinery importers in the islands announced that it would give credit to the members of these associations on the purchase of agricultural machinery up to 50 per cent of their paid-in capital. This amounts to a deposit of an additional 50 per cent of its capital with each of the associations, and will put at the service of the small farmers a vast amount of capital that could not otherwise have been available. The generous offer is part of the food campaign that is being waged by the Government, assisted by some of the larger commercial firms of the islands, and will doubtless do much toward increasing the production of food crops during the coming year.

JAPANESE TRADE IN CHLORATE OF POTASH.

[Consul General George H. Scidmore, Yokohama, Oct. 10.]

One of the most prominent of the Japanese industries that have developed since the outbreak of the war is the manufacture of chlorate of potash. In a discussion of the subject, the Japan Chronicle refers to the fact that in the early stages of the war the suspension of imports sent prices up greatly, and states that established manufacturers of chlorate of potash extended their equipment, while numerous new manufacturing plants came into existence. It was not very long before the output was so greatly increased that prices fell considerably, making it difficult for some of the less substantial of the manufacturers to continue operations. Efforts were then made to ship the product abroad, principally to the United States, which before the war imported chiefly from Germany.

"Japanese traders," states the Chronicle, "have exported to the United States both to order and as a speculative venture. It is said that the quantity shipped from Yokohama to that country since the beginning of the war exceeds 10,000 barrels. At present on the domestic market it is said that efforts are being made in some quarters to force down prices by continuously offering small quantities for sale, with the object of buying up a large quantity when the price has fallen."

[An article on potash and other chemicals in Japan's trade was published in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for Sept. 24, 1917.]

Bank of Algeria Increases Note Issue.

Ambassador William G. Sharp reports from Paris that by a decree of October 12 the maximum issue of notes of the Bank of Algeria is increased from 600,000,000 francs [see *COMMERCE REPORTS* for Oct. 27, 1917] to 650,000,000.

IMITATION LEATHER IN VARIOUS MARKETS.**NEW ZEALAND.**

[Consul General Alfred A. Winslow, Auckland.]

Imitation leather, or leather cloth as it is known here, is extensively used in New Zealand. There is a fairly good outlook, especially for American makes, if quality and prices can be met.

The British manufacturer heretofore has had the lead in the higher grades, while American producers have supplied more of the cheaper grades. Rexine (British) has been very popular for high-grade work, such as upholstery, carriage and automobile work, etc. For the present at least the European supply is greatly curtailed, and consumers are looking to America for supplies of all kinds. This will continue until the close of the war.

No imitation leather is manufactured in New Zealand. Imports of such goods for 1914, 1915, and 1916, by countries, were:

Countries.	1914	1915	1916
United Kingdom.....	\$32,600	\$30,212	\$44,376
Canada.....	102		496
France.....	63	63	141
Germany.....	1,348		47
Italy.....		48	73
Sweden.....			58
Japan.....			63
United States.....	6,644	6,277	18,795
All other.....		161	14
Total.....	40,757	36,761	64,053

Increase from United States.

American manufacturers have been getting larger proportions of this trade, and their share can be greatly increased if they are able to meet prices grade for grade. They have been too high in the past by 5 to 15 per cent on most of the better grades.

Some of the larger consumers import direct, and the principal warehousemen carry stocks for the retail trade. This is a business which can be successfully carried on with samples sent by mail, but a salesman visiting the trade could do good work.

Practically no advertising has been done in this Dominion for these lines. It is doubtful if much would result from advertising them here, for their merits in general are well known.

There is no duty on imitation leather, save a war tax of 1 per cent ad valorem from all countries.

Importers in New Zealand have been accustomed to pay against documents at port of discharge, and American business men should arrange to meet these conditions when possible if they expect to get the best results. No special packing is necessary. Imitation leather usually comes in rolls, well wrapped in heavy paper.

[Lists of importers and consumers of leather cloth in New Zealand may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 90313.]

AUSTRALIA.

[Consul William C. Magelssen, Melbourne.]

The Australian customs returns and statistics do not list separately the imports of imitation leather, and the consumption can not there-

fore be given, but this commodity is popular and is imported in substantial quantities, principally in connection with automobile, carriage, and furniture making, bookbinding, and table and shelf covering. The uses to which it is put are so varied that grades from the best to the cheapest are represented.

Prior to the war German imitation leather was on the Australian market. Dealers report, however, that the quality was inferior, and the German product at no time entered into serious competition with the British and American leathers, the only ones now offered for sale in this country. Pegamoid and Rexine Spanish upholstering leather cloth (British) enjoyed special favor, but the supply of this leather has been affected by war conditions, and local stocks are now practically depleted.

British and American imitation leathers are said to be about equal in price. More varieties of the American manufactured article are found in this market. It is said to be more flexible, more easily worked, to have a better finished grain, and to be less liable to crack.

Among the principal British manufacturers of imitation leather operating in Australia are Crockers, Storeys and Williamson.

Import Duty and Shipping Arrangements.

The import duty is: Foreign, 5 per cent; British, free. The trade is well established, and advertising is not considered necessary. Shipment is usually made by direct line (Luckenbach) from New York. From the Pacific coast are two lines—Union from Vancouver, and the Oceanic from San Francisco—by which transshipment at Sydney for Melbourne is necessary. Shipments are packed in wooden cases containing from 12 to 24 rolls of 15 yards each.

The bulk of the American business in this district is done through New York commission firms or with the larger Australian importers, most of whom have London offices or branches, and prefer to pay cash against documents if any advantage can be gained by doing so. The New York commission houses, however, extend credit of 10 to 90 days when advisable, according to circumstances and the nature of the business. These commission houses charge the manufacturer $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent buying commission, and make their own terms with the importer here. Under such an arrangement the manufacturer in the United States is not concerned with the financial standing of his foreign customer. Importers in good standing who deal direct with the American manufacturer or his local agent here usually are able to arrange payment on the basis of 60 or 90 days' sight drafts with shipping documents delivered on acceptance.

[Lists of American commission houses represented in Melbourne, and of importers of imitation leather in that city may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 90307.]

BRITISH INDIA.

[Consul Stuart K. Lupton, Bombay.]

British imitation leathers, sold under the names of Rexine and Pegamoid, have had an excellent market in India, principally for railway upholstery, although there are instances of their use for furniture, vehicles, bookbinding, etc. The trade has materially declined, as a result of a falling off in construction, difficulty in obtaining the product, the growth of the Indian leather industry, en-

hanced freights, and greater initial prices. Dull finish and satin duck, in blue and green, have been preferred.

The greater proportion of the imports has been in widths of 50 or 54 inches, 12 yards to the roll. Prices for Pegamoid and Rexine in certain grades are 48 cents per square yard f. o. b. London, less 10 and 5 per cent. They are classed by the customs authorities with oilcloth and floor cloth. The imports from all quarters under this head in 1916 amounted to \$240,915, of which the United States furnished 436,762 square yards, valued at \$90,624. The customs duty is $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

These goods are handled almost entirely by commission merchants, who take indents from dealers. Payment is made by drafts on agents or dealers, as advised, generally at 60 days' sight through bankers in Bombay. Dealers prefer c. i. f. to f. o. b. prices. Agents charge 5 to 10 per cent commission, depending on the turnover. Imitation leather is best shipped with each roll on a wooden core, wrapped in oiled paper. Boxes should be used instead of crates, and should be made of strong material, well strapped. Little advertising is necessary.

[A list of Bombay firms which are in a position to handle this product may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 90643.]

ARABIA.

[Consul Addison E. Southard, Aden.]

Samples of imitation leather received at the Aden consulate from American manufacturers have been shown to a number of the leading importers and merchants here. They find both the quality and the prices of the material most attractive, but say that there is no local demand for a product of this sort. The only possible use would be for covering and reupholstering motor cars and carriages, but the trade would be unimportant, as only about 300 such vehicles are owned in Aden. It is seldom that any such extensive repair work as would call for new tops or upholstery is done on these vehicles.

Aden has no manufacturing industries which could make use of artificial leather. The only important factories here are two for the production of salt and cigarettes, respectively. In the few small native shop and home industries in which the use of leather or a substitute is required, the material that is supplied consists of home-tanned skins or hides, which usually are obtained by the users from their own or their neighbors' animals, and are tanned at little expense.

Possible Market After the War.

Some dealers think that the future development of Aden may offer opportunities for the sale of imitation leather, but that nothing can be attempted until after the war. Should a possible demand develop, the best method of entering the market would be to interest two or more of the larger importing firms in making direct purchases. It is not believed that any one of the established houses here would be sufficiently active in pushing the sale of an article like imitation leather to warrant granting it an exclusive agency. Most of the reliable business men would be willing to make direct purchases if they

saw a chance to sell the goods. They have an organization for distributing merchandise among the jobbing and retail establishments, which are principally in the hands of conservative Indian, Parsee, Jewish, and Arabian merchants. To do business direct with the native jobbers and retailers would involve credit and other problems which might prove expensive and annoying.

There are no regular methods of advertising. Aden has no newspapers. There is a limited circulation of the Bombay Times of India. Billboards are not used. The most effective means of local advertising that is known is the use of large colored posters or placards which are distributed to the retail shops that have a product on sale. [A report on pictorial advertising in Arabia was published in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for Feb. 1, 1917.] Circulars may profitably be sent to the Europeans and the few educated natives.

Import Requirements, Trade-Marks, and Patents.

Aden is a free port except for duties collected upon alcoholic liquors or preparations and intoxicating drugs. It is politically a part of India, and the same laws for trade-mark and patent protection are in force here.

Trade is financed by the local bank, a branch of the National Bank of India (Ltd.), and by a few of the larger importing and exporting firms. The general rate of interest charged for time over which any credit extends is from 7 to 9 per cent. The bank rate of interest is from 8 to 10 per cent per annum. Terms vary, but at present the cash-against-documents method seems most generally used. Before the war favorable credits were given, but at present 30 days' credit is about the most liberal of the terms that are conceded. Many of the larger firms are quite willing to furnish letters of credit if given the usual average discount of 2½ per cent for cash.

Conditions Which Govern Packing Methods.

Goods for shipment from America to Aden should be carefully and strongly packed to stand the long sea voyage and a possible transshipment before reaching here. Aden has practically no rain, and goods arriving are sometimes left out in the open, where the greatest damage they can receive is from the hot sun and the sand and dust which cover and penetrate all possible places. As much of the merchandise imported here is exported to neighboring countries and places where the principal means of transportation is by camel, pack mules, or human carriers, it is advisable that goods come in small packages of 50 to 75 pounds. These should be made up into larger ones—six or eight small packages to each large one—for shipment to Aden. In this way convenience and quickness in handling would be secured, and the Port Trust landing charges would be lower, as these are based mainly upon the number of pieces to be landed.

[A list of importers and dealers at Aden who might undertake to handle imitation leather may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 90668.]

GUATEMALA.

[Consul Samuel C. Reat, Guatemala City.]

The demand for imitation leather in Guatemala is very limited. Manufacturers in the United States at present supply the entire quantity that is used here. It is not listed separately in the Guate-

malan customs record. One wholesale dealer in the city supplies the demands of a few furniture factories and upholsterers. His imports for any given year amount to less than \$1,000 United States gold. A manufacturer of carriages and a repairer of carriages and automobiles uses imitation leather for carriage and auto seats, buggy tops, etc. His imports for 1916 amounted to a little more than \$1,000. It is probable that the total imports of Guatemala for a year do not exceed \$3,000.

The wholesale dealer mentioned has not imported any imitation leather for three years. He explains that advances in price of the product in the United States render it no longer profitable for him to handle it, in view of the limited demand and the high cost of transporting the goods to Guatemala.

Opportunity for Trade With Bookbinders.

Guatemala bookbinders state that they do not use this material, largely because of ignorance of the product. They employ a kind of stamped paper, which formerly they imported from Germany and England. An aggressive effort on the part of American manufacturers to introduce their goods to the bookbinders should meet with encouraging results. Imitation leather is not used in shoe manufacturing here, or to any appreciable extent for purposes other than those mentioned.

Local dealers state that by the time the goods have made the journey from New York to Guatemala City and paid all the charges, they have nearly doubled in value. The usual selling terms are cash, but on request they sometimes obtain 60 to 90 days. More liberal credit, they claim, would enable them to handle larger imports.

Imitation leather comes here wrapped in long rolls and packed in wooden boxes. The packing is declared to be satisfactory. The customs duty is from 20 to 50 centavos a kilo of 2.2 pounds, half of the duty being assessed in United States gold and half in Guatemalan currency worth about 2½ cents to the peso. The ocean-carriage charge, New York to Puerto Barrios, is about 60 cents United States gold per quintal of 101.43 pounds. The railway charge, Puerto Barrios to Guatemala City, is \$19.60 United States gold per 1,000 pounds.

[A list of importers of and dealers in imitation leather at Guatemala City may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 89305.]

MINERAL OUTPUT OF SOUTHERN RHODESIA FOR ONE MONTH.

[Consul John P. Bray, Johannesburg, South Africa, Oct. 4.]

The total value of the mineral production of southern Rhodesia for the month of July amounted to \$1,916,133. There were 69,002 fine ounces of gold produced, of a value of \$1,405,109, while the silver obtained amounted to 18,428 ounces, valued at \$9,069. The output of coal reached 44,699 tons, which was sold for the equivalent of \$53,210. Copper production amounted to 366 tons, valued at \$90,731; chrome ore to 8,233 tons, worth \$178,878; asbestos to 993 tons, valued at \$174,605.

The minerals of lesser importance were iron, stone, and wolframite, of which the values amounted, respectively, to \$248 and \$3,076.

The diamond output amounted to 55 karats, valued at \$1,207.

SILK PRODUCED BY PHILIPPINE COMPANY.

[J. F. Boomer, correspondent, Manila, Sept. 27.]

Frequent successful experiments have been made by the Government of the Philippine Islands in the matter of silk production in the islands. Experts in silk culture believe that it might be built up to commercial importance if capitalists were disposed to undertake it. Heretofore no serious attempt has been made on the part of private enterprise to develop the industry, but recently a corporation has been formed for embarking in silk culture. Already it has made a promising start in a small way. The Dungan-Dungan Plantation Co., at Tanap, Province of Ilocos Norte, has 15,000 mulberry trees of proper age for feeding silk worms. The start was made a short time ago with 20,000 worms, and arrangements were completed with the Bureau of Science of the Philippine Islands to obtain 30,000 eggs per month. Mulberry trees are being planted on a 1,000-acre tract which is adapted to such an enterprise.

The plantation is in the charge of a Japanese silk grower of experience. The company already has produced some silk. The output per month has been from 15 to 20 kilos (33 to 44 pounds) which has sold for 40 pesos (\$20) per kilo (2.2 pounds) raw. This yield is obtained by one Filipino girl with one machine, the services of the girl costing \$6 per month.

[Those who are interested in the silk-culture operations of the Dungan-Dungan Plantation Co. may obtain the names of the organizers of the company from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 1306. Articles on silk production in the Philippines were published in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for Aug. 21, 1911, Feb. 10 and June 18, 1913, and Oct. 2, 1915.]

ESTIMATES SHOW LARGE JAPANESE RICE CROP.

[Vice Consul Henry B. Hiltcheck, Yokohama, Oct. 19.]

Figures published by the Department of Agriculture and Commerce in the Imperial Japanese Government Official Gazette of October 5, 1917, as the first official forecast of the rice crop, give the total for this year as 296,883,295 bushels. This exceeds last year's crop of 292,215,235 bushels by 4,668,060 bushels. The average annual crop is 265,121,340 bushels, which is 31,761,955 bushels less than the estimated crop for this year. The figures for the average annual crop are based upon the statistics for the preceding seven years. Those of the year of the best crop and of the year of the worst crop in the period are rejected; and the average of the five other years constitutes the official "average annual crop."

The reports from every part of Japan are uniformly good, as the weather this year was exceptionally favorable at the critical times of sowing, transplanting, and flowering, although a certain amount of damage must have been caused by the typhoon of September 30 and October 1.

OFFICES OF THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE.**DISTRICT OFFICES.**

NEW YORK: 734 Customhouse.
 BOSTON: 1801 Customhouse.
 CHICAGO: 504 Federal Building.
 ST. LOUIS: 402 Third National Bank Building.
 NEW ORLEANS: 1020 Biernia Bank Building.
 SAN FRANCISCO: 347 Customhouse.
 SEATTLE: 848 Henry Building.

COOPERATIVE OFFICES.

CLEVELAND: Chamber of Commerce.
 CINCINNATI: Chamber of Commerce.
 CINCINNATI: General Freight Agent, Southern Railway, 96 Ingalls Building.
 LOS ANGELES: Chamber of Commerce.
 PHILADELPHIA: Chamber of Commerce.
 CHATTANOOGA: South American Agent, Southern Railway System.
 PORTLAND, OREG.: Chamber of Commerce.
 DAYTON: Greater Dayton Association.

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the Bureau and its district and cooperative offices. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and state opportunity number. The Bureau does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases. Symbols: * Reported by American consular officers; † Reported by commercial attachés and commercial agents; ‡ Direct inquiries received by the Bureau.

In considering the following "opportunities" special regard should be had to the laws and regulations governing export licenses and trading with the enemy.

Artistic articles.....	25822	Fertilizers.....	25821
Blankets, spreads, etc.....	25824	Leather goods.....	25822
Canes and walking sticks.....	25822	Machinery.....	25825
Celluloid articles.....	25822	Parasol and umbrella parts.....	25822
Chemicals.....	25818	Rubber-stamp goods.....	25819
Cigarette lighters and holders.....	25822	Steamship furnishings.....	25824
Cottonades.....	25824	Sulphuric copper and iron.....	25821
Electric-battery materials.....	25820	Tools.....	25825

25818.*—A man in India desires to purchase and secure an agency on a commission basis for the sale of chemicals, such as hydrosulphate of soda conc. powder, for working and setting indigo vat dyes; sulphate of ammonia, seventeen-eightieths per cent entirely free from iron, in white pebble forms, packed in 5-hundredweight casks; brown sugar of lead; antimony salts, 65 per cent; potash bicromate; bicromate of soda; sodium sulphide, 65 per cent; caustic soda; soda ash, in double bags of 2 hundredweight each; washing soda; magnesium chloride; zinc chloride, 98 per cent pure; sulphur; congo red, etc. Samples should be submitted. Payment will be made through house in New York. Correspondence may be in English.

25819.*—A firm in Scotland desires to purchase rubber-stamp goods, sign markers, daters, numerators, etc. Quotations should be made f. o. b. New York. Payment will be made by cash against bills of lading. Goods should be sent through American Express Co. References.

25820.*—A company in Italy is in the market for any gelatinous substance for making a filler for electric cells or batteries that will remain dormant until water is added. The substance should be in powdered or dry form, capable of being stored without deterioration, and that becomes active by addition of water. It also desires to purchase dioxide of manganese, graphite, zinc, and sal ammoniac. Samples should be submitted as soon as possible. Correspondence may be in English. References.

25821.*—A firm in the Azores wishes to buy phosphoric fertilizers, sulphuric copper, and sulphuric iron. Lowest cash quotations are desired f. o. b. New York. Correspondence may be in English.

25822.*—A wholesale buyer in Italy is in the market for all kinds of leather goods, such as leather bags, traveling articles, morocco packet books, purses, etc.; celluloid articles, such as combs, brushes, umbrella handles, etc.; parasol and umbrella parts and accessories; articles of art, such as fine hardware, metal frames for clocks, vases, inkstands, cigar boxes, and novelties; canes and walking sticks; metal cigarette lighters and cigarette holders of various types, etc. Payment will be made by opening credit at local bank, available against shipping documents. Correspondence should be in French or Italian. References.

25823.*—An agency is desired by a commission agent in Spain for the sale of combination lock safes. Correspondence should be in Spanish. References.

25824.*—A man in France connected with a steamship company desires to purchase blankets, cottonades, sheets, bedspreads, etc., for use on the boats of this company. Catalogues and descriptive literature should be submitted. Quotations should be made f. o. b. New York. Payment will be made by cash against documents. Correspondence should be in French. References.

25825.*—A firm in Portugal wishes to purchase machines, tools, etc., for use in factories. It also desires to entertain an agency proposition for the sale of same. Payment will be made against documents or other terms desired by shipper. Correspondence should be in French or Spanish. References.

PRINCETON, N. J.

COMMERCE REPORTS



DAILY CONSULAR AND TRADE REPORTS
ISSUED DAILY BY THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE



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No. 268 Washington, D. C., Thursday, November 15 1917

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URUGUAYAN EXPORT DUTIES ON WOOL AND HIDES.

[Cablegram from American Consul, Montevideo, Nov. 12.]

Law of November 9 increased export duties on the following products to 4 per cent, assessed on stated valuations for fiscal year 1917-18, viz: Raw wool, 120 pesos per 100 kilos; washed wool, 200 pesos per 100 kilos; dry cattle hides, 80 pesos per 100 kilos; salted cattle hides, 45 pesos per 100 kilos; sheepskins, 75 pesos per 100 kilos; tallow, 25 pesos per 100 kilos. Pulled wool, valuation fixed later. New rates in effect since November 9. (Uruguayan peso, \$1.03; kilo, 2.2046 pounds.)

[The export duties on the above products in force hitherto are as follows: Wool of all kinds, 1.30 pesos per 100 kilos; dry cattle hides, 0.12 peso each; salted cattle hides, 0.25 peso each; sheepskins, salted, free; sheepskins, dried, 0.80 peso per 100 kilos; tallow, 0.50 peso per 100 kilos. An unverified report has been received stating that combed wool has been exempted from duty.]

ISSUE OF BONDS BY FRENCH WEST AFRICA.

[Consul W. J. Yerby, Dakar, Senegal, Sept. 10.]

The governor general of French West Africa on September 1, 1917, authorized the issue of bonds (bons de caisse papier) in the French West African colonies as follows: In Senegal—112,000 francs in two-franc notes, 375,500 francs in one-franc notes, and 262,500 francs in one-half-franc notes; total, 750,000 francs. In French Guinea—166,666 francs in one-franc notes, 83,334 francs in one-half-franc notes; total, 250,000 francs. In Ivory Coast—25,000 francs in two-franc notes, 75,000 francs in one-franc notes, 100,000 francs in one-half-franc notes; total, 200,000 francs. In Dahomey—200,000 francs in one-franc notes, 100,000 francs in one-half-franc notes; total, 300,000 francs. Total value of issue, 1,500,000 francs, or \$289,500.

The bonds issued in each colony will have legal currency throughout the colony, and will be issued as fast as they can be prepared.

MANUFACTURERS INDORSE WORK OF BUREAU.

Resolutions adopted by the National Association of Cotton Manufacturers and the National Implement and Vehicle Association emphasize the importance of the work of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce. The former organization urges liberal support for the development of the Bureau's work, while the implement and vehicle manufacturers express their appreciation of the cooperation that has been given to manufacturers in the development of trade. The resolutions of the National Association of Cotton Manufacturers are:

Inasmuch as the future prosperity of our industry is clearly dependent upon the quantity of cotton goods exported as well as imported;

Inasmuch as our industry has been constantly increasing its exports and has introduced many new lines of its products throughout the world;

Inasmuch as our industry desires to make every effort to retain and increase its exports;

Inasmuch as other countries have and are making extensive plans for the furthering of their export trade after the war: Be it

Resolved, That the National Association of Cotton Manufacturers urge upon Congress liberal appropriation for the support and development of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

That the National Association of Cotton Manufacturers request that an active, effective Bureau be established to include the ablest and best brains of the country for the development and extension of American foreign trade.

That this resolution be forwarded to the President of the United States, to all Senators, Congressmen, and to the papers, and that our export committee be instructed to energetically urge action consistent therewith.

The resolutions of the National Implement and Vehicle Association were passed by unanimous vote at the twenty-fourth annual convention of the organization, which was held at Chicago October 19, 1917. They stated in their indorsement of the Bureau:

Resolved, That we again testify our sincere appreciation of the cordial and effective cooperation which the United States Department of Commerce has accorded the manufacturers of this country, in an endeavor to maintain and increase their foreign trade, and we feel perfectly confident that this constructive policy will continue to be pursued by this Department, through its Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

REPRESENTATION IN DUNDEE JUTE MARKET.

[Vice Consul E. R. Pottle, Dundee, Scotland, Oct. 15.]

A firm in Dundee desires to form connections in the United States with a reputable firm which is interested in establishing an agency here for the purchase of jute and flax products. Members of the firm state that their connections in Dundee will enable them to purchase these goods at a favorable price, and that on account of the unsettled outlook in the jute market it would be advisable for an American house which expects to buy these products in large quantities to have an agent in the field. The service offered is for the purchase of jute cloth (burlaps), jute paddings, jute twists, and flax yarns.

[The name and address of the firm may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 94469. Articles on the Dundee jute trade were published in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for Sept. 24 and Oct. 11, 1917.]

A German invention is being tried in Goteborg for making paper cans to substitute for tin in the sardine and other preserving factories.

MINERAL PRODUCTION IN THE URALS.

[Abstract of article in Bourse Courier, Aug. 17; translated by J. F. Hurst, clerk to commercial attaché, Petrograd.]

According to statistics published by the Council of Ural Industries, the production of pig iron in 1916 amounted to 46,048,168 poods (831,464 short tons), as compared with 50,881,098 poods (918,730 tons) in 1915. The decrease was due almost entirely to the diminished output of private foundries, which in 1916 produced only 37,603,441 poods (678,983 tons), as against 42,389,483 poods (765,402 tons) in 1915. The production of copper also showed a decided falling off. The smelting of copper is undertaken entirely by private foundries, which in 1916 produced only 944,306 poods (17,051 tons), while in 1915 the production amounted to 1,041,059 poods (18,798 tons). The decreased production of copper and pig iron was in no relation with the output of the Ural coal mines, which actually increased. In 1916, 79,349,542 poods (1,432,767 tons) of pit coal were extracted, as compared with 67,860,384 poods (1,225,314 tons) in 1915.

Manufactured products destined for inland markets also showed decreases. The production of sheet iron, which in 1915 was 13,045,776 poods (235,560 tons), amounted to only 6,206,292 poods (112,063 tons) in 1916. The rail factories in 1916 put out 2,565,625 poods (46,326 tons), as compared with 5,051,438 poods (91,211 tons) in 1915. These figures concern only private factories; those run by the Government stopped the production of rails at the beginning of the war.

CONSUMPTION OF COTTON IN OCTOBER.

A report by the United States Bureau of the Census shows that 595,332 bales of cotton were consumed in this country during the month of October, 1917, compared with 550,655 in the corresponding month of 1916, and that for the three months ended October 31 the quantity was 1,687,418 bales, compared with 1,636,723 bales in the corresponding period of 1916. In these statistics the figures are given in running bales, counting round as half bales, except foreign cotton, which is in equivalent 500-pound bales. The cotton on hand in consuming establishments on October 31 amounted to 1,085,770 bales compared with 1,721,990 at the corresponding time last year; in public storage and at compresses to 3,030,455 bales compared with 3,667,840 last year.

The amounts given include 19,005 bales of foreign and 9,213 bales of sea-island consumed, 72,861 bales of foreign and 24,186 bales of sea-island held in consuming establishments, and 29,055 bales of foreign and 32,273 bales of sea-island held in public storage. Linters not included were 100,136 bales consumed during October in 1917 and 67,228 bales in 1916; 69,887 bales on hand in consuming establishments on October 31, 1917, and 67,435 bales in 1916, and 93,271 bales in public storage and at compresses in 1917, and 77,207 bales in 1916. Linters consumed during three months ending October 31, amounted to 268,193 bales in 1917 and 201,295 bales in 1916.

BRITISH ADVERTISING-POSTER RESTRICTIONS.

A new order, consolidating two previous orders restricting the use of paper for posters, catalogues, price lists, and advertising circulars, was issued under date of October 22 by the British (Government) Board of Trade. As published in its official Journal of October 25 the new order reads, in part:

1. (a) In this order the expression "poster" means a sheet or sheets made wholly or partly of paper, cardboard, or other similar material, containing any advertisement, announcement, or imitation, whether in words, pictorial form, or otherwise, printed, written, or depicted, which is exhibited or intended to be exhibited;

(b) An announcement, advertisement, or imitation consisting of any combination of posters shall be treated as one poster;

(c) In the case of posters relating to the advertisement of or contents in any newspaper or periodical, the expression "poster" includes posters made of any material whatever.

2. No person shall exhibit or cause or permit to be exhibited any poster relating to the advertisement of or contents in any newspaper or periodical except at the premises where the newspaper or periodical is published.¹¹

3. No person shall make or exhibit, or cause or permit to be made or exhibited, any poster the superficial measurements of which exceed 2,400 square inches.

4. No person shall exhibit or affix or cause or permit to be exhibited or affixed on any one wall, hoarding, or place, a number of posters relating to the same subject matter or business which in the aggregate exceed a superficial area of 2,400 square inches, except at the place of business of the person advertising, in which case no one poster so exhibited or affixed shall exceed the superficial area aforesaid.

5. No person shall exhibit or cause or permit to be exhibited any poster containing any advertisement, announcement, or imitation with respect to goods offered for sale by a retailer except at the premises where such goods are offered for sale, nor any poster containing any advertisement, announcement, or imitation with respect to the business of a money lender, bookmaker, commission agent for the making or placing of bets and wagers, or with respect to any competition involving guessing or any test of skill.

Advertising Circulars.

6. In this order the expression "advertising circulars" includes advertisements (other than posters) issued gratuitously and printed or written on paper, cardboard, or other similar material; tradesmen's catalogues and price lists; advertising sheets or periodicals in the form of a newspaper or magazine, whether registered as a newspaper or not, which are distributed gratuitously and of which advertising is the main and not merely an ancillary purpose; diaries, almanacs, and calendars issued gratuitously and containing advertising matter.

7. Save as hereinafter provided no person shall issue or dispatch any advertising circular, by post, by hand, in the form of inset, or otherwise, whether the same is issued or dispatched by a trader to a trader or in response to a request in writing or otherwise.

8. Advertising circulars may until January 31, 1918, be issued and dispatched within the United Kingdom for, by, and on behalf of all persons other than those mentioned in paragraph 13 hereof, provided that the total weight of paper used for such advertising circulars (including the envelopes or wrappers) between August 20, 1917, and January 31, 1918, shall not exceed one-third of that used by the person by or on whose behalf the same were issued or dispatched within the United Kingdom between August 1, 1916, and January 31, 1917.

10. Nothing in this order shall apply to diaries, almanacs, and calendars containing advertising matter for gratuitous issue for the year 1918 which were printed or partly printed before September 10, 1917, and which contain no more advertising matter than was contained in the issue made for the same person for the year 1917, and which are not made for or issued by the persons mentioned in paragraph 13 hereof, nor to circulars requesting verification of in-

formation for books of reference and containing no advertising matter other than that relating to books of reference published by the same person.

13. No advertising circular shall be made, printed, issued, dispatched, or exhibited for, by, or on behalf of any registered money lender, bookmaker, commission agent for the making or placing of any bets or wagers, or by the promoters of or persons interested in any guessing competition or test of skill.

18. The Royal Commission on Paper on behalf of the Board of Trade may in such cases as they think fit, and either particularly as respects any person or thing, or generally as respects any class of persons or things, issue licenses dispensing with the application of this order to any person or thing, or any class of persons or things.

19. Where the fulfillment by any person of any contract is interfered with by the necessity on the part of himself or any other person of complying with any provision of this order, that necessity shall be a good defense to any action or proceeding taken against that person in respect of the nonfulfillment of the contract so far as it is due to that interference.

CHARGES INCREASED AT BRISTOL DOCKS.

[Consul J. S. Armstrong, jr., Bristol, England, Oct. 5.]

The Bristol Docks Committee has given notice that in consequence of a further war allowance being granted to dock laborers, the dues, rates, rents, and charges shown in the current schedules will be increased as follows:

Dues on shipping goods on and after October 11, 1917—A further 5 per cent on all ships entering from or departing to foreign ports, and on which prior to March 9, 1915, the dues of 1s. 1½d. (27 cents), 9d. (18 cents), and 6d. (12 cents) were, respectively, paid, and on all goods imported from or exported to foreign ports, making a total increase of 25 per cent on the schedule dues.

Laborage operations on grain, seeds, general goods, wood goods, cold-storage goods, and other services on and after October 1, 1917—An additional 5 per cent on laborage operations performed by the Docks Committee, making a total increase of 45 per cent on the schedule rates.

Rent charges on grain, seeds, general goods, wood goods, cold-storage goods, etc., on and after October 1, 1917—An additional 10 per cent on rent charges, making a total increase of 20 per cent on the schedule rates.

MONTEVIDEO FIRM SELLS RIVER STEAMERS.

[Consul William Dawson, Montevideo, Uruguay, Oct. 6.]

Messrs. Hermann Krabb & Co., of Montevideo, recently sold to Mr. Miguel R. Podestá, of Buenos Aires, two river steamers and four lighters that have hitherto been used for service between Montevideo and Asuncion on the so-called Teutonia Line. The steamers are the *Dr. Kemmerich*, of 526 gross and 277 net tons, and the *Hermann Krabb*, of 552 gross and 294 net tons. They are twin-screw steel ships and were built in 1912 at Kiel, Germany. The total purchase price paid by the Buenos Aires firm is stated to have been £82,000 (\$400,000)—£60,000 for the two steamers and £22,000 for four lighters.

It is reported that the steamers will fly the Argentine flag.

Sweden Requisitions Fats.

Vice Consul Arthur E. J. Reilly reports from Stockholm that the Swedish Government has requisitioned all kinds of fats with the exception of butter. The order became effective October 4.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE SWEDISH BANKS.

[Vice Consul Arthur E. J. Reilly, Stockholm, Oct. 22.]

The Central Bureau of Statistics has published an account of the development of the Swedish bank system during the past 40 years. The survey shows that in 1875 the Swedish banking companies, both those with joint and several responsibility and those with limited liability, which together reached a total of 37, possessed paid-up capital amounting to \$19,887,866 and reserve funds amounting to \$3,105,180. At the close of 1916 the number of banks had risen to 60, with \$111,479,536 in paid-up capital and \$74,239,399 in reserve funds. In this connection, however, it is to be noticed that in 1910, though the funds were considerably smaller, the number of banks was considerably larger—81.

Large Profits Throughout Banking Business.

While the State Bank of Sweden at the close of 1916 could show assets amounting to \$181,332,028, the banking companies had no less than \$1,102,335,314. The past year, as is well known, has been a particularly good one for the banks and has resulted in very large profits in practically all cases, and in some cases in quite unique profits.

All the banking companies together reported net profits of \$24,610,440 in 1916, compared with \$13,228,480 in 1915 and \$13,768,400 in 1913, which is an immense increase. If one considers how the profits were employed, it is found that the increase in the dividend was relatively small, while very considerable sums have been funded. The greater part of the increased profits has been used for purposes of consolidation.

Altogether \$13,048,920 was distributed in dividends, as against \$11,448,960 in 1915 and \$11,071,080 in 1913. The reserve funds have obtained from the profits \$3,225,112, as compared with \$779,880 and \$1,490,240 in 1915 and 1913, respectively, while the contingencies funds have received \$5,601,200, as against \$1,184,560 and \$1,136,320, respectively. To the next year's accounts have been transferred such considerable amounts as \$2,795,240, compared with \$333,040 and \$361,800 in the other years named, evidently in recognition of the fact that the year 1916 was an exception from a monetary point of view and that bad times are impending.

Various Institutions Consolidated.

During the past year Bergslagsbanken has been absorbed by Mälarsbanken, Jämtlands Kreditbank by Stockholms Handelsbank, Melstersta Halland and Varbergs Bank and Herrljunga Lantmannabank by Borasbanken, and Bergsjö Folkbank by Sundsvalls Handelsbank. Finally, Kristdala Folkbank has disappeared.

The deposits in the banks, which at the close of 1913 amounted to \$453,353,320, rose during the past year from \$535,592,640 to \$669,295,160, a striking proof of the abundant supply of capital. Against total deposits of \$712,998,280 (including claims on and liabilities to native banks) there stood advances to the public of \$779,587,880 at the end of 1916.

The number of bank offices in 1916 rose from 721 to 805; that is to say, one bank office for every 7,152 inhabitants (7,923 at the beginning of the year). At the close of 1913 the number of banking offices was 640, or one for every 8,810 inhabitants, which is a further proof of the active expansion of the last few years.

REVIVAL OF ZINC INDUSTRY IN RUSSIAN POLAND.

[Berliner Börsen Zeitung, Sept. 1.]

The zinc mines of Olkusz, Poland, which for a long time have been under water, are now in a condition to commence producing. The zinc-ore deposits at Trias, not far from Olkusz, which are well known to the zinc industry, made it possible for the zinc smelters of Bendzin and Dombrowa to be established.

The zinc mines at Boleslaw near Sosnowice, which belong to the Sosnowice Mining & Smelting Co., before the war produced an annual average of about 10,000 tons of calamine and over 2,000 tons of calamine with lead glance. The Ulysses zinc-ore mines at Tlukienka near Dombrowa, which belong to the Franco-Russian Co., are now being managed by the Germans. This mine has an average annual production of 40,000 tons of calamine and 12,000 tons of calamine with lead glance. Altogether before the war the Polish zinc-ore mines produced 50,000 tons of calamine and 14,000 tons of calamine with lead glance per year. By way of comparison with the productive capacity of the Upper-Silesian zinc-ore mines it may be noted that the latter mines before the war produced an annual average of 110,000 tons of calamine and over 400,000 tons of sulphate of zinc.

Zinc Smelting.

The zinc mines of Poland have been connected by rail with the railroad at Bukowno. This branch line is about 2 miles in length. The raw zinc and zinc ore is smelted and worked up in the various zinc smelters located near and in Dombrowa, particularly the Paulinen smelter near Zagorze, which belongs to the Sosnowice Mining & Smelting Co.; the Konstantin near Dombrowa, which formerly belonged to the Franco-Russian Co., and the Bendzin smelter near the town of that name, which formerly belonged to the Société Minière of Dombrowa. The number of workmen now employed in the Paulinen smelter is over 450; the Konstantin employs about 200 and the Bendzin over 200. Mention should be made of the zinc-plate works of Tillmanns & Oppenheim at Bendzin, which employs about 100 workmen and manufactures zinc sheets and plates. The Sosnowice Co. has a zinc-white factory.

Raw Zinc—Chamotte Stone—Outlook for Zinc Industry.

Before the war a total of about 9,000 tons of raw zinc was produced in Poland each year on the average. The present production, which is far below this figure, is exported for the most part to Austria. The market for zinc is satisfactory, which is fortunate in view of the increased cost of operating the mines and smelters.

As a noteworthy kindred industry of the raw-zinc industry is the manufacture of chamotte stone and other fireproof materials. Until recently chamotte stone, especially of the higher qualities and finished designs, came from Germany. Since 1912 the Polish factories that make this kind of article have greatly increased their output, and factories have been established at Ostrowice, Cmielow, Myszkow, Wierzbnik, Skarzysko, etc.

All these factories are now working only part time. As Poland has sufficiently large quantities of raw materials to meet all the demands of the zinc and allied industries, it may be expected that after the war great strides will be made in this field.

ANILINE DYES IN SOUTH CHINA.

[Consul General George E. Anderson, Hongkong, Sept. 15.]

Efforts of American manufacturers and exporters of aniline dyes, synthetic indigo, and similar products to secure the South China trade have so far been fairly successful as compared with similar business done by many of them in previous years, but all complain that the transactions have been frankly upon a temporary basis and that there is no prospect under the arrangements so far made that the trade will endure after the war.

On the other hand, Hongkong merchants complain that American manufacturers are not willing to suit their methods to the requirements of the trade here on a permanent basis and that orders to American manufacturers will continue to be of a stop-gap sort until the importers in Hongkong and China can be protected, particularly as to trade-marks and "chops," forward contracts, and future business generally.

American exporters complain that importers here are unwilling to afford them any knowledge of the ultimate buyers of their goods, while Hongkong importers indicate that until and unless their private trade-mark or "chop" covering the goods is protected and they can be protected against attempts to cut under them in future trade with such ultimate buyers it is idle to expect any such information.

Far Eastern Trade Methods Not Thoroughly Understood.

The fact is American manufacturers do not understand the dye business as it has been carried on in the East. They do not understand how the business has been developed, how it has been financed, how important trade-marks and "chops" are, how essential it is that the trade be carried on in a continuous way and under a definite, continuous, and consistent policy, or how the system of bonuses and rebates, built up in its development, affect its further growth.

For a good many reasons the dye market in China is far different from that in the United States, where dyes can be bought in the open market on the basis of quality which may be determined by analysis. In China no such market, in the nature of the situation, can exist. The Chinese dyer, trained in the first place in the use of native dyes and vegetable indigo, must be taught, sometimes bought, and always encouraged to use foreign dyes, which he can identify in the future only by the trade-mark or "chop" under which they were introduced to him. The market is immense, is almost illimitable—but it requires special handling.

No Prejudice Against American Dyes.

There is no prejudice against American dyes. Most firms now in the business are British, and usually they prefer to handle British products. At the present time, however, British products in many lines are not to be had, and in any event American dyes are as acceptable and popular as any other unknown dyes—and practically all of the dyes on the market at the present time are unknown compared with the German products imported before the war. An American representative of an American dye concern working in this market has sold well toward half a million dollars' worth of American dyes

and, until competition from Europe comes, will doubtless sell more. The trade here is reaching out for such products, and under normal conditions American-made dyes, when of proper quality, will have as good a chance in this field as any other dyes.

American manufacturers, however, have so far not been disposed or able to meet the terms under which Chinese users of dyes are accustomed to buy their materials, and the indications are that only by a complete grasp of the situation, viewed on a large scale, will American exporters permanently succeed in the business. The trade is so large and the American manufacturer's opportunity is so exceptional at this time that it is folly to consider the trade upon any other than a permanent basis. The fact is that the dye trade in the Far East (as measured by that of South China, at least) is one requiring large capital, thorough organization, and patient use of the highest merchandising ability.

No Definite Trade Figures Available.

Complete and definite figures as to the volume of the trade in Hongkong and South China are not to be had, for no Hongkong returns are available and a considerable portion of the trade was carried on with districts other than those included in the Chinese customs returns. Figures obtained from commercial sources place the quantity of aniline dyes sold in the Hongkong field in 1911 at 12,850,000 ounces, valued at about \$225,000 Hongkong currency; in 1912, 14,500,000 ounces, valued at \$433,000; and in 1913, 18,800,000 ounces, valued at \$540,000 Hongkong currency. The sales of synthetic indigo in 1911 amounted to about 9,000 piculs (picul=133½ pounds), valued at about \$485,000 Hongkong currency; in 1912, to 8,860 piculs, valued at about \$449,000; and in 1913, to 21,400 piculs, valued at about \$1,128,000. These three years were the last years of normal trade. [The U. S. Treasury exchange value for the Hongkong dollar was about \$0.42 in 1911; from \$0.43 to \$0.49 in 1912, and from \$0.47 to \$0.50 in 1913.]

In a general way, therefore, it may be said that the annual value of this trade in the Hongkong field is around a million dollars gold in normal years. For all China the trade in aniline dyes and artificial indigo in 1913 reached \$3,961,962 and \$7,038,237 gold, respectively, or a total of \$11,000,199. These imports were credited almost entirely to Germany and Belgium. The trade in fact was German trade.

The secret of German success lay as much in the German plan of merchandising as in scientific and economical methods of manufacture. There were several primary arrangements upon which all the German factories based their trade. One was the maintenance of large stocks of dyes on the spot—not only in large centers like Hongkong and Shanghai, but in all the principal cities and dye centers of China as well. A second was a system of sales on commission, i. e., the factory carried the stocks and risks, tidied over all fluctuations in prices, bad seasons, and the like. Another was financial aid to dyeing establishments such as the large dye establishments the Chinese maintain in various centers for dyeing goods on a large scale. Still another was a graduated system of rebates on sales granted all agents in the shape of bonuses on quantities consumed; and, lastly, a

general system of propaganda work, including not only advertising but the service of trained dyers and demonstrators and the like. This whole system was carried on by the factory, by the exporter. The dealer in Hongkong was in reality only an agent selling on commission.

Large Stocks on Hand at Outbreak of War.

The crux of the entire system was the maintenance of large stocks on hand—an arrangement that meant the locking up of considerable capital. How large the stocks of these dyes kept in China have been may be deduced from the fact that when the war in Europe broke out and the import of dyes from Germany ceased China at once began to reexport the stocks of dyes on hand.

In 1914 China imported aniline dyes to the value of \$2,225,121 gold and reexported them to the value of \$24,188. In 1915 China imported aniline dyes to the value of \$291,960 and reexported them to the value of \$1,759,737. In 1916 the imports were valued at \$387,390 gold and the reexports at \$1,690,840. Imports of artificial indigo in 1914 were valued at \$6,955,758 gold and reexports at \$16,561. In 1915 the imports were valued at \$2,568,261 and the reexports at \$3,985,762 gold. In 1916 the imports were valued at \$340,821 gold and the reexports at \$374,969 gold.

Accordingly, there must have been on hand in China at the beginning of the war enough of a stock of aniline dyes and synthetic indigo to enable China to supply its own wants since that time (upon a restricted scale, of course) and export surplus stock to the value of over \$4,000,000 gold, to which the stock on hand in Hongkong at the time should be added.

Trade-Mark Must First Be Established.

Most American manufacturers would be disposed to bear, or at least share, the burden of advertising and propaganda where contracts of purchase were such that they could receive the benefit of this advertising. Such benefit, however, hinges upon the establishing of recognized brands of dyes and upon a continuous and systematic sales system; for advertising without complete merchandising details usually is lost. A sales system in turn involves the use of trained men, not only salesmen from the United States or the factory generally, but Chinese salesmen and experts trained in the use and sale of the products of a particular factory. Such an organization (assuming it is not possible to secure one ready made) represents years of effort and expenditure. In this the Hongkong or Chinese importer can not bear the burden alone. Even if he is willing to advance the capital and brains to do the work, he can only do it under contracts protecting his work.

The fact is, in such lines as dyes and in such a field as China, this work is primarily the business of the manufacturer. After a manufacturer has established his goods here under his own "chops" or trade-marks, he can sell in the open market as American exporters generally wish to sell at the present time. He can not do so in a permanent trade, however, until his goods are recognized. With the competition he will face after the war, the maker of dyes not known by a recognized "chop" will have no chance.

The dye business in China is a business for big capital. The game is big, but the prize is fully as great. Hongkong merchants realize that the competition they face in the future will be along the lines above indicated, and, naturally, none of them are willing, even if able, to undertake a campaign for business which would involve such an outlay of money and energy without more protection than they receive in an ordinary purchase outright of dyes in the open market from manufacturers who may or may not protect them in their trade in the future. To succeed in the Chinese trade the American manufacturers must at least be partners with their Hongkong or other Eastern representatives.

SWISS INDUSTRIAL SITUATION.

[Chargé d'Affaires Hugh B. Wilson, American Legation, Berne, Sept. 18.]

In its September bulletin the Swiss Banking Association reviews the industrial situation in the Republic at some length, contrasting present conditions with the pre-war status in both economic and industrial circles. It points out that the situation before the outbreak of hostilities, while not brilliant, was comparatively satisfactory, but that the mobilization of the Swiss army, the departure of foreign laborers, the financial crisis, the stoppage of international traffic, and the moratoria declared in several countries caused a sudden interruption of Swiss industrial activity. Continuing, the circular says:

At the beginning of 1915 the situation had again become almost normal; some of the most important Swiss industries had overcome their difficulties, though others still suffered. The world war then began to enter the economic field, and Switzerland, because of its geographical position, suffered most among neutrals. The Republic depends on foreign countries for three-fourths of the materials for its industries and for two-thirds of its food supplies. While its supply of food and of raw materials for the textile industries must come from the entente countries, it depends for coal and iron on the central powers. This resulted in many difficulties, which were not wholly overcome by the creation of semiofficial bodies to control and ration supplies of all kinds.

The Swiss export trade has also suffered from the import prohibition imposed by most belligerent countries to counteract the unfavorable exchange situation. These prohibitions struck at so-called "articles of luxury," the chief export of Switzerland. These, while not wholly necessary to life, are nevertheless intended for general consumption, and their title of "articles of luxury" is a part of the new war vocabulary. In some cases these prohibitions have been removed, but not sufficiently to compensate for the losses caused Switzerland by such arbitrary measures.

Export Trade Gains in Value.

For a while these products could be sent to the United States and to South America, but transportation difficulties caused by lack of rolling stock, high freights, high marine-insurance rates, and lack of available bottoms restricted even these exports. Despite certificates of manufacture and origin the transit of such goods through belligerent countries was hampered, so that the Swiss industries were unable to take full advantage of the cessation of world competition in neutral markets. Limited telegraphic and slow postal communication added to the difficulties, and the depreciation of foreign currencies often made it impossible to find a proper basis for prices.

Despite the transportation and other difficulties alluded to, Switzerland's exports of 28 of its most important products reached a value of 1,983,000,000 francs in 1916, contrasted with 1,322,000,000 francs in 1915, 969,200,000 francs in 1914, 1,117,300,000 francs in 1913, 1,104,200,000 francs in 1912, and 1,025,200,000 francs in 1911. It must, however, be considered that this increase in value is due to the general rise in prices, since the quantities exported in 1916

were much below those of the year before. The exports of these 28 leading articles for the last six years have totaled :

Articles.	1911 ¹	1912	1913	1914	1915	1916
	<i>Francs.</i>	<i>Francs.</i>	<i>Francs.</i>	<i>Francs.</i>	<i>Francs.</i>	<i>Francs.</i>
Aluminum.....	17,000,000	14,000,000	13,000,000	15,000,000	37,000,000	49,000,000
Aniline dyes.....	25,000,000	26,000,000	25,000,000	27,000,000	29,000,000	52,000,000
Automobiles.....	11,000,000	14,000,000	13,000,000	20,000,000	29,000,000	25,000,000
Boots and shoes.....	11,000,000	14,000,000	19,000,000	20,000,000	28,000,000	38,000,000
Calcium carbide.....	5,000,000	7,000,000	7,000,000	8,000,000	12,000,000	17,000,000
Canned goods.....	6,000,000	5,000,000	7,000,000	6,000,000	14,000,000	15,000,000
Cattle.....	11,000,000	14,000,000	10,000,000	11,000,000	8,000,000	70,000,000
Cheese.....	63,000,000	65,000,000	70,000,000	66,000,000	73,000,000	67,000,000
Chocolate.....	47,000,000	55,000,000	58,000,000	55,000,000	91,000,000	81,000,000
Copper wares, turned.....	200,000	200,000	300,000	200,000	21,000,000	130,000,000
Cotton manufactures:						
Fabrics.....	38,000,000	37,000,000	36,000,000	36,000,000	75,000,000	130,000,000
Yarn.....	17,000,000	17,000,000	17,000,000	19,000,000	44,000,000	5,000,000
Embroideries.....	214,000,000	218,000,000	210,000,000	158,000,000	182,000,000	230,000,000
Ferrosilicon, ferro-chrome, etc.....		6,000,000	7,000,000	7,000,000	10,000,000	16,000,000
Floss silk:						
Twisted.....	29,000,000	28,000,000	28,000,000	23,000,000	29,000,000	61,000,000
Other.....	5,000,000	5,000,000	6,000,000	4,000,000	5,000,000	19,000,000
Knit goods.....	14,000,000	16,000,000	17,000,000	15,000,000	19,000,000	27,000,000
Machinery.....	82,000,000	90,000,000	97,000,000	73,000,000	87,000,000	151,000,000
Milk, condensed.....	39,000,000	47,000,000	44,000,000	47,000,000	47,000,000	57,000,000
Silk, and manufactures of:						
Artificial.....	4,000,000	5,000,000	5,000,000	4,000,000	9,000,000	12,000,000
Dyed.....	20,000,000	23,000,000	21,000,000	20,000,000	16,000,000	28,000,000
Fabrics.....	109,000,000	115,000,000	113,000,000	115,000,000	128,000,000	168,000,000
Raw (organzine, grege).....	29,000,000	31,000,000	33,000,000	27,000,000	67,000,000	113,000,000
Ribbons.....	40,000,000	41,000,000	42,000,000	48,000,000	60,000,000	73,000,000
Tram.....	14,000,000	17,000,000	17,000,000	13,000,000	29,000,000	49,000,000
Straw, manufactures of.....	18,000,000	17,000,000	15,000,000	13,000,000	17,000,000	31,000,000
Watches and clocks.....	164,000,000	174,000,000	183,000,000	121,000,000	136,000,000	208,000,000
Wood (unmanufactured).....	3,000,000	3,000,000	4,000,000	4,000,000	20,000,000	61,000,000
Total, 28 principal articles.....	1,025,200,000	1,104,200,000	1,117,300,000	969,200,000	1,322,000,000	1,963,000,000
Total, all exports.....	1,237,000,000	1,338,000,000	1,376,000,000	1,187,000,000	1,670,000,000	.....

Supply of Raw Materials the Chief Problem.

The supply of raw materials has been the chief concern of the Swiss manufacturers for the last three years. Not all industries suffer from this equally, since some do not depend entirely on foreign sources. Still, lack of supplies has caused a diminution of production and the institution of "short time" at many factories. The purchase of goods held in Switzerland on foreign account was only a partial remedy, as the stocks of such goods were not really so great as it was generally thought abroad. Cotton mills and the silk and metal industries suffered most. The paper industry, which gets its raw material in Switzerland, now has difficulty in obtaining wood and must pay exorbitant prices because of foreign demand.

The creation in 1915 of the Treuhandstelle Zurich, for importation from the central powers, and of the S. S. S. (Société Suisse de Surveillance Economique), for importation from the entente, did away, to some extent, with the uncertainty attending the supply of raw materials; but the rations of raw materials fixed by those organizations are strictly limited and often late in arriving at their final destination.

The distribution of coal and iron is regulated by two organizations in Basel and Berne created in 1916, of which that dealing with coal distribution is to be converted into a stock company to facilitate the carrying out of the financial part of the recent Swiss-German economic agreement.

The industries which use hydroelectric power have profited by the coal shortage. The use of gas in the cities has been cut down, and electric lighting has become more common.

On the whole, Swiss industry has done well in the last two years. The food-products industry was among those that benefited by foreign trade. The chocolate industry would have benefited more had there been enough raw material.

The effect of the war on the machinery industry has varied. Automobile manufacturers were able to export at good prices and also control the home

market. The electrical industry also did well, while other branches of the machinery industry (textile machines, flour-milling machinery, etc.) lost their foreign markets.

Metallurgical, cloth, and shoe factories were busy with army orders. Calcium carbide and aluminum were in great demand. As far as the manufacture of munitions for foreign countries is concerned, the large industrial establishments participated only to a very slight extent, but the increased value of the exports of munitions in 1916 would seem to indicate that the smaller manufacturers have entered the field on account of the loss of the market for their regular products.

Status of Other Industries—Further Curtailment Possible.

The textile industries—cotton from the very beginning of the war and silk later—suffered from lack of raw materials. The Italian embargo on raw silk and a shortage of dyes, combined with the prohibition of the import of articles of luxury into foreign countries, greatly restricted the output. The silk-ribbon industry is also beginning to suffer. Floss-silk mills have profited by the increase of prices, but in 1914 this industry had worked at a loss.

The watch industry is not doing very well, although it benefits from the increasing demand for cheap watches. Fine watches are temporarily in poor demand.

The St. Gall embroidery industry is passing through a period of depression because of the lack of raw materials. The hotel industry is also in a critical state, having lost, in 1915, 360,000,000 francs in gross income, and probably a similar amount in 1916.

High prices of materials, shortage of labor, and the uncertainty of the times affected the building industries badly. This is also true of breweries. The tobacco industry has no brilliant prospects, and the situation in the straw and the printing industries is not much better.

The circular presents certain tables giving the capital, reserves, and other data for 11 important industrial groups; but these figures are so incomplete and subject to so many qualifications that it was found advisable to omit them from this review.

The general conclusion reached is that Swiss industry has bravely withstood the test of war, considering the difficulty of obtaining raw materials and the closing of many foreign markets. The situation has become steadily worse since the beginning of 1917, the association states, because of import prohibitions, transportation difficulties, and other restrictions on the already limited export business, and a further curtailment of industrial activity is to be expected.

GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS FOR SALE.

The following were among the publications received in stock for sale by the Superintendent of Documents at Washington, during the week ended November 10:

Customs Tariff of Chile (Tariff Series number 36, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce).—Covers classification of materials, exemptions, warehouse dues, export dues, internal taxes, customs, regulations, etc. Price, 10 cents.

Marketing Eggs by Parcel Post (Farmers' Bulletin 830).—Covers preservation of eggs in water glass, packing for shipment, methods for bringing producers and consumers together. Price, 5 cents.

Common Colds (Supplement number 30, to Public Health Report, reprint).—A practical information relative to the treatment, etc., to common colds. Price, 5 cents.

The value of live stock invoiced at the American consulate at Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, for the United States decreased from \$2,006,277 for the first nine months of 1915 and \$890,445 for 1916 to \$530,545 for the same period in 1917.

BRITISH TRADE IN BRISTLES INCREASING.

[Consul Harry A. McBride, London, Oct. 9.]

A branch of British commerce whose rapid increase in prominence since the outbreak of the war has attracted attention is the bristle trade. The conditions are due to some extent to the large naval and military demand.

Statistics of the imports of bristles into the United Kingdom during the past two years, compared with those of prewar times, give an idea of the growing importance of the trade. These amounts were:

Countries of origin.	1912		1915		1916	
	Pounds.	Value.	Pounds.	Value.	Pounds.	Value.
China	2,215,110	\$1,214,020	4,414,933	\$2,139,605	3,347,038	\$1,629,914
Russia	1,043,149	1,383,950	1,045,579	1,148,611	2,289,621	2,753,363
Other countries	1,350,783	1,147,507	1,453,062	1,144,518	865,155.	718,981
Total	4,609,047	3,745,477	6,913,574	4,432,734	6,501,814	5,102,258

China and Russia supply about four-fifths of the British requirements. They are now followed by British India and France, but Germany formerly furnished about 600,000 pounds annually.

Better Grades Come from Siberia.

The trade formerly was centered at Leipzig, but the finest qualities of bristles come from Siberia and Russia, and the producers in these countries are now endeavoring to eliminate the German intermediaries. Before the war, trade in the Russian and Siberian article was carried on almost entirely by German firms which bought up the bristles in the northern parts of Siberia and shipped them to Leipzig. It is stated that about 5,400,000 pounds of bristles thus found their way from Russia to the Leipzig fairs every year, and the German firms realized a profit of about \$7,000,000 on them, having made the purchases for about \$2,000,000, whereas the sale price aggregated more than \$9,000,000.

In the early stages of the war measures were taken to establish the market at Petrograd, and notwithstanding certain financial, political, and shipping difficulties this met with some success.

The Canadian trade commissioner at Omsk, Siberia, reports that practically all the bristles handled by dealers in that country are sold raw and shipped to European Russia, where they are sorted, straightened, turned and dragged to size, and graded for export.

Preparation of bristles for the foreign market has become one of the important home industries of the peasants during the winter months. The principal fair at which bristles are sold is at Nizhni Novgorod, which serves as a collecting base for the bristle-producing districts of northeastern Russia and Siberia. It was at Nizhni Novgorod that the German merchants obtained a large quantity of the bristles that were subsequently sent to Leipzig. The prices at which they were recently sold by Siberian dealers ranged according to quality from \$25.75 to \$51.50 per pood (pood=36.11 pounds), exceeding those of 1915 by about 10 per cent.

Chief Market Now at London.

During the past two or three years British merchants backed by financial means and technical knowledge have entered the field, and their activities are causing London to become an important center for this trade. Information in regard to the London bristle market appeared in a recent issue of the London Chamber of Commerce Journal, which stated:

To give an illustration of how completely London dominates the bristle situation of the world, there is at present in the London docks and warehouses double the quantity that arrived at an ordinary Leipzig fair previous to the war. Bristles require great experience and technical knowledge, and this is where the British merchants, by training up experts and sending them all over China and elsewhere, have scored over their less technical and more speculative competitors.

The fact that New York and Paris draw their supplies from London enables our brush manufacturers to fill their requirements from a range and selection of raw material such as would not be possible were London only a sidetrack in the main bristle market of the world. The brush manufacturer, under present circumstances, and in the future, if as is hoped the market remains here, has the immediate call and selection, in close proximity to him, of all the various kinds of bristles produced in the world.

Japanese Competition in the Future.

The main source of supply of the bristles is in that district of Siberia which is bordered by the Urals on the west and the River Lena on the east. The question therefore arises as to whether, should the Japanese extend their sphere of influence westward, the market in future would not be centered in Kobe. The Japanese have made strong efforts to obtain control of the Chinese bristle markets, but on account of the strength of British merchants in China, have not succeeded. It is to be hoped that it will be the same with regard to the European bristles, and that the market will remain in London.

Bristles in the aggregate represent a very small commodity compared with the larger articles such as leather, wool, etc., but individually they represent a value in a compact space which probably is greater than any material of a non-metallic nature, and their use in repairing boots and making brushes is essential.

[An article on the Russian trade in bristles was published in **COMMERCE REPORTS** for June 16, 1917.]

MANUFACTURE OF PHOTOGRAPHIC PLATES IN SWEDEN.

[Vice Consul Arthur E. J. Reilly, Stockholm, Oct. 22.]

A company has been organized in Stockholm—Aktiebolaget Svensk Torrplåtsindustri—for the manufacture of photographic plates, an article that Sweden heretofore has had to import. The new factory produces ordinary photographic plates in standard types of different sensitiveness, especially portrait plates, and a number of other kinds, such as orthochromatic plates, Röntgen plates, etc.

OFFICES OF THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE.**DISTRICT OFFICES.**

NEW YORK: 784 Customhouse.
BOSTON: 1801 Customhouse.
CHICAGO: 504 Federal Building.
ST. LOUIS: 403 Third National Bank Building.
NEW ORLEANS: 1020 Hibernia Bank Building.
SAN FRANCISCO: 307 Customhouse.
SEATTLE: 348 Henry Building.

COOPERATIVE OFFICES.

CLEVELAND: Chamber of Commerce.
CINCINNATI: Chamber of Commerce.
CINCINNATI: General Freight Agent, Southern Railway, 96 Ingalls Building.
LOS ANGELES: Chamber of Commerce.
PHILADELPHIA: Chamber of Commerce.
CHATTANOOGA: South American Agent, Southern Railway System.
PORTLAND, OREG.: Chamber of Commerce.
DAYTON: Greater Dayton Association.

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the Bureau and its district and cooperative offices. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and state opportunity number. The Bureau does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases. Symbols: * Reported by American consular officers; † Reported by commercial attachés and commercial agents; ‡ Direct inquiries received by the Bureau.

In considering the following "opportunities" special regard should be had to the laws and regulations governing export licenses and trading with the enemy.

Colors-----	25832	Iron and steel products-----	25827
Corsets-----	25830	Kitchen utensils-----	25835
Electric lamps and supplies-----	25828	Lamps-----	25833
Electric-light shades-----	25833	Pencils-----	25826
Garters-----	25830	Pens and pen points-----	25826
Hops and malt-----	25832	Printing presses and machinery-----	25829
Hosiery-----	25830		25834
Ink-----	25826		

25826.*—A merchant in Italy desires to purchase black and colored pencils, ink pencils, pen points, drawing pens, crystal and glass ink stands, stationery, black and colored printing inks, etc. Quotations may be made f. o. b. New York. Payment will be made by opening credit at a local bank when giving order, available against shipping documents. Correspondence should be in French or Italian.

25827.*—A company in England is in the market for steel channels for ricksha wheels for inserting rubber tires $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches inside and $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches outside; plain and corrugated galvanized iron; mild steel sheets; iron sheets; and steel bars. Quotations should be made f. o. b. New York. Payment will be made by cash against shipping documents in New York. Reference.

25828.*—A firm in Switzerland wishes to buy large quantities of glow lamps with metal filament and $\frac{1}{4}$ -watt glow lamps assorted; contact-breakers 4, 6, and 10 amperes; and sockets for glow lamps. Payment will be made against bill of lading. Correspondence may be in English. If desired, a deposit will be made in a Swiss bank as a guarantee for the contractors.

25829.*—An agency is desired by a commission agent in Spain for the sale of printing presses. Correspondence should be in Spanish. References.

25830.*—A company in Italy desires to purchase all kinds of cotton and silk hosiery, corsets in silk and elastic tissue, and silk and embroidered silk garters for ladies. Quotations should be made f. o. b. New York. Payment will be made by opening credit at a local bank when giving order, available against shipping documents. Correspondence should be in French or Italian. References.

25831.*—An agency is desired by a man in France for the sale of hops and malt for breweries. Payment will be made by cash against documents. Reference. Correspondence should be in French.

25832.*—A company in Australia is in the market for red oxides and black and blue-black colors especially made for coloring all classes of cement work, and guaranteed to remain a permanent color when used in this class of work. Samples should be submitted with price lists. Payment will be made by cash against documents at local bank.

25833.*—A firm in London wishes to buy oil table lamps and glass electric light shades. Quotations should be made f. o. b. New York or San Francisco. Payment will be made by cash in the United States. Reference.

25834.*—An agency is desired by a man in France for the sale of printing presses, book-binding machines, paper-cutting machines, and all kinds of machines for the printing business. Correspondence should be in French.

25835.*—A man in Spain desires to secure an agency for the sale of kitchen utensils. Correspondence should be in Spanish. References.

COMMERCE REPORTS



DAILY CONSULAR AND TRADE REPORTS
ISSUED DAILY BY THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE



For sale by the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C., at \$2.50 per year

No. 269 Washington, D. C., Friday, November 16 1917

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PHILIPPINE HEMP INSPECTED DURING OCTOBER.

A cablegram received by the Bureau of Insular Affairs, War Department, states that during the month of October Philippine Government fiber inspectors inspected and stamped 94,726 bales Abaca and 4,913 bales Maguey, as follows: Abaca: A, 674; B, 1,411; C, 3,118; D, 6,590; E, 13,321; S-1, 1,309; S-2, 3,013; S-3, 1,920; F, 18,710; G, 2,780; H, 2,052; I, 12,715; J, 13,411; K, 4,196; L, 4,571; M, 2,081; DL, 1,043; DM, 365; strings, etc., 1,448. Maguey: One, 344; two, 2,713; three, 1,625; D, 231.

SICILY'S ALMOND CROP BELOW AVERAGE.

[Vice Consul Robert F. Fernald, Catania, Italy, Oct. 15.]

This year's almond crop has recently been gathered, being a fortnight later than is usual and in general is below the average, caused by unsettled weather during blossoming. The output in some parts of the Catania, Syracuse, and Avola districts has been good, but because of poor yield in the important mountainous center of the island the total crop is below average. Stocks of last year's crop are still on hand.

The filbert yield is very good, but no estimate of quantity can at present be given. The Bronte (Mount Etna) district reports a small pistachio crop.

SOAP FROM SEWER FAT.

[Vice Consul Arthur E. J. Reilly, Stockholm, Sweden, Oct. 23.]

The manufacture of soap from sewer fat has been taken up by the Happach Soap Co., which has worked out a new method for the purpose. There are also plans for using native vegetable fats, such as beechmast, horse-chestnuts, etc. All this due to the shortage in raw materials for the soap and soft-soap industry.

TAILORS TO TRADE REDUCE SIZE OF SAMPLES.

A substantial saving in the quantity of cloth that is used for samples by tailors to the trade in the United States is assured by an agreement which has been made as a result of conferences with the Commercial Economy Board of the Council of National Defense. A maximum of 6 by 9 inches has been fixed for such samples, and it is estimated that the reduction represents enough wool to uniform more than 67,000 soldiers. Mr. A. W. Shaw, chairman of the Commercial Economy Board, in a letter to Secretary of Commerce Redfield, states:

MY DEAR MR. REDFIELD: We have just found out the results of one of the minor phases of our wool campaign, and I know you will be interested in them, because the saving, while comparatively small, is so clean and definitely measurable.

In the course of our conferences last summer we asked the tailors to the trade—those concerns that send out swatches of samples to retailers and make suits to order for the retailers' customers—to reduce the size of these samples. The National Wholesale Tailors' Association, representing about two-thirds of the tailors to the trade, unanimously agreed to do this. Mr. William Cahn, president of the association, and certain other members undertook to secure the cooperation of the remaining one-third. Mr. Cahn now reports that the entire industry with the exception of three firms is pledged to send out no samples larger than 6 by 9 inches. This means samples averaging 21½ per cent smaller than last year. The cloth used for these samples last year totaled 1,087,000 yards. The saving therefore is 223,108 yards, worth, at current prices, \$419,500, and representing enough wool to uniform 67,000 soldiers.

CHEFOO LACE INDUSTRY.

[British (Government) Board of Trade Journal, Oct. 25.]

The British consul at Chefoo, China, writes that the Chefoo lace industry has felt the effect of the high rate of silver exchange. For a time few orders were placed, but recently there has been a revival of business and the regular workers are now fully employed. The increased prices created by the rise in exchange would probably not have been so readily paid but for the fact that Chefoo laces had always been sold at a moderate figure, and also because very little lace is now to be obtained from European centers.

Australia was again the principal market, and some large orders have been booked from that country. The United States takes filet laces, of which few are produced in the Chefoo district. Nevertheless, substantial orders have been placed for Chefoo laces, and there are indications of these goods coming much more into favor in the United States.

The general quality of Chefoo lace now stands very high, and the demand is steadily increasing. The range of styles and patterns is also being extended to meet inquiries, and the whole outlook for this industry is very promising.

To Manufacture Artificial Limbs in Australia.

Consul General J. I. Brittain reports from Sydney, Australia, under date of October 12, that an American citizen is about to open a factory on behalf of the Government for the manufacture of artificial limbs similar to some of the latest designs being manufactured in the United States.

WOOL SITUATION IN BRADFORD.

[Vice Consul Hamilton C. Claiborne, Bradford, England, Oct. 24.]

Much interest is manifested in the new contracts for khaki and other fabrics required by Great Britain and its allies. These contracts are said to be for execution between next January and the end of April. It is stated that, in view of the large demand for military cloths, there is every probability of a reduction of the supply of wool allocated for civilian trade.

As a possible war measure and to conserve wool supplies it seems probable that new standards for both military and civilian cloths will be adopted. A recent article in the Yorkshire press, commenting on wool and textiles, says:

It needs to be borne in mind, however, that the prodigal use of virgin wool on military goods, which was indulged in when wool was first put under Government control, is being materially modified. Already new standards have been accepted, and arrangements are being made for a greater use of by-products and second-hand wool in the production of a "camouflaged" cloth, which will be quite as serviceable as the old qualities from the point of view of warmth and wear. [See COMMERCE REPORTS for Nov. 5, 1917, p. 488.] By this more economical use of new wool further supplies will be conserved to a greater extent than formerly, and something will be done by way of neutralizing the shortage of shipping facilities.

So far as goods for civilian consumption are concerned, the price of raw materials, whether new or second-hand, will compel attention to "camouflaged" cloths and other woolen wear, for complaints regarding the prices of clothing and underwear are becoming louder and more persistent. If private producers can not or will not do something to meet this outcry, it is certain that sooner or later the Government will intervene, as it has done in the boot trade.

SHIPPING RATES FROM ENGLAND TO AUSTRALASIA.

[Consul General Alfred A. Winslow, Auckland, New Zealand, Oct. 5.]

There has been a heavy increase in freight rates from Great Britain to Australasia. They are one-third higher than they were at the end of June. Previously, since the outbreak of the war, these rates had been much lower than those from New York to this part of the world, and consequently the New Zealand importer feels the increased charges very materially. The lower cost from Great Britain had been made possible until recently by the large amount of shipping that came out here for the products of New Zealand and Australia, especially fresh meats, butter, cheese, wool, and hemp. They are not now shipped so freely to Great Britain for lack of shipping.

Effort to Equalize Rates in General.

It is understood that the increased freight rate is not in the interest of the shipping companies, since the British Government has requisitioned all of the shipping, but that it is in the interest of equalizing the freight rates in general, so that all lines of commerce may bear the same relative rate. This will have a tendency to divert trade to the United States if American manufacturers are in a position to deliver the goods under about the same conditions as those to which British manufacturers have been accustomed in dealing with the trade of this country. This means that the American manufacturer must grant reasonable credit, such as paying against documents at port of discharge, or even 30 or 60 days. He must also be careful about quoting prices at least f. o. b. steamer at port of shipment and pay a little better attention to replying to correspondence.

CONSTRUCTION WORK.**CHINA.**

[Consul C. E. Gauss, Amoy, Sept. 6.]

Water Supply for the Port of Amoy.

In connection with the question of an adequate water supply for the island of Amoy [see **COMMERCE REPORTS** for July 21, 1917], it has been found, according to those concerned, that the idea of drilling artesian wells on the island of Amoy must be given up, the certainty of a water supply being remote. Instead the following project has been drawn up and submitted to the governor of Fukien for approval: The establishment of a large reservoir on Amoy Island and bring water by launch, 400 tons daily, from Chioh-be (Shima), about 17 miles inland. Run mains from the reservoir to the principal consumers and to service stations.

For this project, it is estimated that a capital of about \$600,000 local currency (about \$300,000 U. S. currency) will be required.

It is estimated that there will be 30,000 consumers in the city of Amoy; the Chinese outside of the city depend upon surface wells largely. Water brought to the city in boats from Chioh-be—an irregular service often suspended in bad weather—costs 6 cents for 2 buckets. The promoters of the scheme estimate that they can supply water to subscribers at 2½ cents local currency for 10 gallons, and those not connected with the mains can be supplied at service stations for about 1½ cents local currency for 2 buckets.

The project has not yet received the approval of the governor at Foochow, but approval is expected. No contract has yet been made in connection with the scheme.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC.

[Consul Arthur McLean, Puerto Plata, Sept. 27.]

Need of Sewers in Dominican Towns.

In this consular district, which embraces the northern half of the Dominican Republic, there are nine towns, ranging in population from Salcedo, with 2,000, to Santiago de los Caballeros, with approximately 15,000 inhabitants. These towns are in the order of their size: Salcedo, Samana, Sanchez, Monte Cristi, Meca, San Francisco de Macoris, La Vega, Puerto Plata, and Santiago de los Caballeros.

None of these towns has as yet a sewerage system, although they all hope to install them as soon as practicable. The municipalities of these places are studying their needs with a view of constructing sewerage systems and making other public improvements.

Interested parties should correspond direct with the ayuntamientos of the towns aforementioned for further particulars.

A Highway Across the Dominican Republic.

Surveys are about to be made for a road from Santo Domingo City, the capital and largest city of the Dominican Republic, situated on the south coast of the island, to La Vega, an important town in the interior.

There is already a road from La Vega via Santiago de los Caballeros to Monte Cristi, a seaport on the north coast, near the Haitian border.

As it is about 96 miles from Santo Domingo City to La Vega, and 104 miles from La Vega to Monte Cristi, the total distance from coast to coast, that is, from Santo Domingo City to Monte Cristi, will be almost exactly 200 miles by the new highway.

As there is not a railroad across the island, the only means of communication heretofore between the north and south coasts of the Republic has been by the fortnightly service of the Clyde Line from New York.

ITALY.

[Consul Joseph Emerson Haven, Turin, Oct. 3.]

Construction of a Hydroelectric Station at Bardonecchia.

Permission has recently been granted to the Italian State Railways by the Ministry of Public Works for the erection of a hydro-electric station at Bardonecchia (Susa), a town in the Cottian Alps, 5 miles from the French frontier on the Modane line. The cost of this plant will be about 20,000,000 lire (approximately \$4,000,000).

Construction has already been commenced, the plans having met the approval of the "Permanent Committee of Public Waters."

The work is divided into two departments, one hydroconstructive and the other electromechanical. The present existing plant for the transformation of electric energy will be turned into a central 20,000-horsepower hydroelectric station, which is to serve for works incident to the war.

NEW ZEALAND.

[Consul General Alfred A. Winslow, Auckland, Oct. 5.]

Addition to Freezing Works—New Hospital.

The Feilding Farmers' Freezing Co., Feilding, New Zealand, is about to erect an addition to its freezing works near that city to cost \$25,000.

The foundation stone for the new annex to the Catholic Hospital at Auckland has just been laid and the first unit is being constructed at a cost of \$25,000. This unit will provide 17 additional single bedrooms.

University Building—Returned Soldiers' Hostel.

The Auckland University Council has let the contract for a building for the use of the University at a cost of \$71,864, which is to be furnished and equipped in an up-to-date manner.

[The name of the contractor and architect can be obtained at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district or cooperative offices by referring to file No. 94529.]

The Salvation Army at Wellington will erect a returned soldiers' and workmen's hostel in that city at a total cost of about \$50,000. It is expected that this structure will be completed about the end of the year, and be prepared to accommodate something over 100 boarders.

[The name of the contractor and architect can be obtained at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district or cooperating offices by referring to file No. 94529a.]

Marine Electrical Solar Salt Works.

Plans have practically been completed for the erection of a marine electrical solar salt works on the beach near Christchurch, at a total

cost of about \$75,000, where it is proposed to manufacture sufficient salt to largely supply the markets of New Zealand. It is proposed to occupy about 400 acres of land for the purpose, where large evaporating areas will be arranged, and the water pumped to the ponds by electricity, which will be the power used in refining and preparing the salt.

PANAMA.

[Consul Julius D. Dreher, Colon, Oct. 24.]

Large Apartment House for Colon.

What will be by far the largest apartment house, as well as the largest building in Colon is about to be erected. This building of two stories will have a frontage of 147 feet and a depth of 169 feet. There will be in all 128 rooms, so arranged as to be rented singly or in suites of from two to six rooms each. The building will have 24 toilet rooms, 32 bathrooms, and 24 kitchens. The cost is estimated to be about \$75,000.

[The address of the architect and contractor can be obtained at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district or cooperative offices by referring to file No. 94493.]

MINING IN THE MALAGA DISTRICT.

[Consul Louis G. Dreyfus, jr., Malaga, Spain, Sept. 11.]

The Malaga consular district comprises the Provinces of Malaga, Granada, and Jaen, in which there were 121 mines in operation on January 1, 1917.

Lead was formerly an important product of the Province of Malaga, but it has declined steadily during the past 25 years, so that Malaga is now only a shipping port for the output of the mines in the adjacent Provinces of Jaen and Granada. On January 1, 1917, there were 72 active lead mines in Jaen, which produced 105,884 metric tons, of 2,204.6 pounds each, of lead in 1916. At the same date, in Granada there were 8 lead mines with a production of 1,915 tons. In the Province of Malaga no lead was mined. Jaen produced more of the metal than any other Province in Spain—about 40 per cent of the total for the Kingdom. The value of a ton of lead at the mine in Jaen was 377 pesetas, and at Granada 363 pesetas (peseta at par of exchange=19.3 cents).

Spanish Plants for Lead-Ore Reduction.

During 1916 there were 15 plants for the reduction of lead ores in Spain, employing 3,580 laborers, and turning out 147,407 tons of the metal. In the Province of Jaen were 3 plants, employing 1,329 laborers and producing 59,230 tons of pigs, the average value of which was 594 pesetas at the factory.

Customs statistics indicate that the exports of argentiferous lead from Spain in 1916 were 21,497 tons, of which 176 were exported from Malaga. In the same year 151,848 tons of low-grade lead in pigs were exported from Spain. Malaga's share of this was 65,458 tons, of which 39,131 went to Great Britain; 18,301 to France; 3,193 to Italy; 3,162 to Argentina; 751 to Holland; 417 to Portugal, and 503 to Russia. The exports of lead pipe from Spain in 1916 were 91 metric tons, of which 82 were exported from Malaga. In addi-

tion, 1,059 metric tons of lead, worked into other forms, were exported from Spain.

Out of a total of 392 mines of iron ore and iron pyrites in Spain in 1916, producing 6,810,539 metric tons of ore, 19 were in the Province of Malaga and had a production of 45,610 tons; 7 were in Granada, with a production of 190,557; and 7 were in Jaen, yielding 21,262 tons. Hence, the Malaga consular district produced 257,429 metric tons of iron ore.

Iron and Steel Mills and Exports.

There were 15 important iron and steel mills in Spain, all in the northern part of the peninsula, except the plant at Malaga called "Altos Hornos," which treated 48,000 tons of ore in 1916, yielding 18,500 tons of lingots, used in the production of 10,000 tons of steel bars. The value of this material at the factory was 500 pesetas per ton.

From Malaga the exports of iron and steel in metric tons for 1916 were:

Destinations.	Iron ore.	Iron bars.	Forged iron and steel bars.	Manufactured iron.	Total.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
Morocco.....		289	21	396	706
Great Britain.....	2,620				2,620
United States.....	2,767				2,767
Cuba.....	22				22
Italy.....	372		663	313	1,348
Argentina.....	192			1,110	1,302
France.....	366	10,014	1,432		11,812
Holland.....	108				108
Denmark.....	56				56
Norway.....	70				70
Sweden.....	20				20
Total.....	6,563	10,303	2,116	1,819	20,831

Spain's Sales of Iron and Steel.

The exports from Spain of iron ore, iron, and steel, in metric tons, last year were: Iron ore, 5,148,127; iron pyrites, 2,743,487; scrap iron, 2,004; pig iron, 46,616; worked iron, 3,594; forged iron and rails, 2,623; other steel bars, 27,206; sheet iron, 576; manufactured iron, 35,045.

There are 5 quicksilver mines in operation in the Province of Granada, with a production of 897 metric tons. In the whole of Spain there are 22 such mines with a production of 19,800 tons. The exports of this product were 916 metric tons in 1914, 1,121 in 1915, and 1,276 in 1916.

Mention should be made of a small copper mine in the Province of Granada which produces 102 tons, and a steatite mine in the Province of Malaga which produces 107 tons. The only other steatite mine in Spain is at Gerona, with a production of 3,454 tons.

Copper ore amounting to 8,218 tons, valued at \$166,800, was invoiced at the American consulate at Puerto Cabello, Venezuela, for the United States during the three months ended September 30, compared with 4,872 tons, valued at \$99,000, for the corresponding period in 1916.

CONDITIONS IN NOTTINGHAM LACE AND HOSIERY TRADE.

[Vice Consul Leroy Webber, Nottingham, England, Oct. 22.]

The lace trade of the Nottingham district remains quiet. There is a small but progressive demand for baby Irish laces. These are probably being used to replace the German guipure laces, which, up to the present, local manufacturers have been unable successfully to reproduce. Difficulties of production are very apparent, and machines are standing idle on account of the lack of twist hands. The number of available draftsmen is gradually decreasing, and few new designs are making their appearance at the present time.

A fair amount of cheap and medium quality laces is being shipped to South American markets, with the exception of flouncings, for which there is practically no demand. There is a fair demand for imitation Barmen laces for both domestic and export trade, but the production in this district is very limited, owing to the small number of machines located here. Recent American orders have been chiefly for torchons, fancy laces, beaded motifs, baby Irish, and cheap and medium Valenciennes.

As to the trade in curtains, the demand of the home market is considered fairly good, with prices ruling high and buyers accordingly exercising extreme caution when making purchases. The Government's action in liberating some of the net machines has made more deliveries available for the ordinary trade. Prices remain steady and firm, without much prospect of reduction.

Nearly all hosiery manufacturers are fully employed on Government contracts, in addition to which there is a steady demand for women's hose, children's socks, men's half hose, and underwear in the various grades.

SUDAN TRADE IN 1916.

[British (Government) Board of Trade Journal, Oct. 25.]

The following particulars respecting the trade of the Sudan in 1916 are taken from the report for that year of the Director of the Sudan Central Economic Board:

The value of the imports into the Sudan in 1916, inclusive of Government stores, amounted to \$13,155,900 [converted from pounds Egyptian at the normal rate of \$4.9431], as compared with \$8,424,275 in 1915, an increase of \$4,731,625, or 56 per cent. The principal item among the imports was, as usual, cotton piece goods, the increase in the value of which indicates clearly the prosperity of the native population. Indeed, as a consequence of the excellent harvests of the past two years and the high prices at which cereals, gum, senna, and other Sudan products have been selling, followed now by the extraordinary rise in cotton prices, there is much money in the hands of the natives.

Import values as a whole in 1916 were swollen by the rise in prices of imported goods, but all the items on the list, with a few trifling exceptions, also showed increases in quantity. In the case of all items that appeal strongly to the popular tastes, such as cotton fabrics, sugar, coffee, tea, and spices, the value of the import trade rose considerably. Imports from British territory in 1916 amounted to \$11,081,875, as compared with \$6,947,475 in 1915, an increase of

over 59 per cent. The British share of the total import trade in 1916 was 84 per cent.

The value of some of the principal imports into the Sudan in 1915 and 1916 [arranged in the order of their importance in the latter year] was:

Articles.	1915	1916
Cotton fabrics.....	\$2,381,450	\$3,240,555
Sugar.....	1,118,405	1,031,965
Coal.....	400,640	1,442,660
Coffee.....	391,500	573,095
Flour.....	369,330	447,345
Tobacco, tobaccos, cigars, and cigarettes.....	211,765	369,960
Sacks, empty.....	313,015	367,265
Tea.....	170,900	253,950
Motor cars, lorries, and accessories.....	5,230	214,045
Tanned and untanned skins and hides, saddlery, and other leather goods.....	47,820	189,925
Clothing, underclothing, and hosiery.....	142,365	185,140
Machinery, all kinds (including steam engines).....	117,455	160,255
Soap.....	121,635	158,145

Substantial Gain in Export Values.

Exports during 1916 reached the record value of \$11,311,805, as compared with \$7,800,165 in the preceding year, a gain of \$3,511,640, or 45 per cent. Exports to British territory amounted to \$8,493,225, as compared with \$5,326,215 in 1915, and represented 75 per cent of the total shipments.

The values of some of the principal articles exported from the Sudan in 1915 and 1916—arranged in the order of their importance in the latter year—are shown in the following table:

Articles.	1915	1916
Gum.....	\$1,547,590	\$2,897,160
Dura (including maize).....	1,023,985	1,730,360
Cotton, ginned.....	1,170,490	1,830,155
Sesame.....	420,865	850,835
Horses, donkeys, mules, and camels.....	5,835	719,930
Cattle.....	345,305	515,000
Dukhn (spiked millet).....	334,210	372,040
Sheep and goats.....	442,535	367,545
Ivory.....	237,920	347,175
Gold.....	324,035	315,810

A plant is being installed at Port Sudan to enable heavy oil to be imported and delivered in bulk, and this small beginning may lead to interesting results in the use of fuel oil on river steamers for the transport of produce. This is a development which may affect the future of the country very closely in connection with new wheat-growing schemes in the Dongola and Berber Provinces.

In order to augment food supplies in Egypt, large areas in northern Sudan are being put as fast as possible under wheat cultivation by means of pump irrigation. When this and other irrigation schemes are completed it is hoped that the area under wheat in northern Sudan will be increased by some 30,000 acres.

A table for the conversion of millimeters to inches from 0.01 millimeter to 25.40 millimeters, by hundredths of a millimeter, has been prepared by the United States Bureau of Standards as a supplement to Circular No. 47 of that Bureau. Copies may be obtained at 5 cents each from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C.

URUGUAYAN GOVERNMENT ENCOURAGES PLANTING OF CORN.

[Consul William Dawson, Montevideo, Sept. 26.]

By a decree of September 5, 1917, the Uruguayan Government directed the officials of the National Inspection of Stock Raising and Agriculture to give their attention up to December especially to increasing the acreage devoted to corn as well as to improving the seed. The official seed commission is instructed to use the funds and facilities at its disposal to distribute selected seed, and the *Defensa Agrícola* (Agricultural Defense) is directed to prepare a publication on diseases of corn and the means of combatting them. Furthermore, the sum of 3,000 pesos (\$3,103) is appropriated for prizes to be awarded at the Third National Corn Exhibit, which will be held next year.

The decree calls attention to the fact that the successful efforts to increase the wheat acreage led to a decrease in the area set aside for corn. The Government considers that, on account of the necessity of crop rotation, the future success of the wheat crop requires an extensive corn area. Furthermore, corn is especially recommended on account of its value for forage and the important part it plays in dairy farming and hog raising. The decree also calls attention to the growing use of corn meal as a substitute for wheat flour on account of the high price of the latter.

The favorable prospects for wheat and the success of the campaign to extend the acreage were noted in this office's report of August 9, 1917. [See *COMMERCE REPORTS* for Sept. 14, 1917.] Corn is a later crop and is sown principally from the middle of September to the middle of December. The latest figures available show 787,080 acres under corn in Uruguay in 1914-15 and 696,820 acres in 1915-16. The 1914-15 corn crop was 11,381,686 bushels, while the 1915-16 crop yielded but 4,603,826 bushels.

CENSUS SHOWS SUBSTANTIAL GROWTH OF SEAL HERD.

The United States Bureau of Fisheries has received complete revised figures showing the number of fur seals in the various categories in the Alaskan herd as determined by the census taken this season. The herd is shown to have contained 468,692 animals, divided into classes as follows: Pups, 128,024; breeding cows, 128,024; harem bulls, 4,850; idle bulls, 2,706; yearling females, 38,018; yearling males, 38,013; 2-year females, 26,917; 2-year males, 26,815; 3-year males, 19,507; 4-year males, 16,631; 5-year males, 14,813; 6-year males, 15,397; surplus bulls, 8,977.

Since in 1916 the herd numbered 417,281, the increase in the year has been 12.3 per cent. The number of pups born in 1916 was 116,977, the number in 1917 being therefore greater by 9.4 per cent. The average number of cows to the harem this year was 26 as compared with 33 in 1916 and 48 in 1915.

Consul General Gottschalk reports from Rio de Janeiro that according to a decree of September 19, 1917, the President of Brazil has authorized the extension of the port works of Rio Grande by 368 meters (1,207 feet).

FUNDS FOR MEXICAN SOLE BANK OF ISSUE.

[Ambassador Henry P. Fletcher, Mexico City, Oct. 12.]

President Carranza has issued a decree prescribing the manner in which private contributions to the capital necessary for the establishment of the Sole Bank of Issue provided for in Article 38 of the Mexican Constitution shall be collected, safeguarded, and accounted for. The decree provides that certain commercial houses which the Department of Hacienda shall designate in each State capital and the large cities, or the banking institution in the City of Mexico which the department selects for the collection of funds in the Federal District, may receive funds and shall deliver to each depositor a provisional certificate for the amount deposited. All such collections are to be forwarded to the designated Mexico City bank, which shall issue final nontransferable certificates at par for amounts of 20, 100, 500, and 1,000 pesos. Subscriptions totaling less than 20 pesos are to be considered as donations to the nation, as are all funds received from performances or bazaars held for this purpose. The decree continues:

ART. 6. The persons mentioned [subscribers] shall be considered as creditors of the Sole Bank for the amounts which they may voluntarily have contributed for the capitalization of the same. Their credits shall draw interest at the rate of 5 per cent per annum, beginning two years from April 1, 1918, within which period the Sole Bank of Issue shall begin operations, unless it is found preferable, in decreeing the organization of the bank, to issue shares for the amounts so collected. In any case the Federal Government is responsible for the amounts received for the capitalization of the bank.

ART. 7. If it is found, when the Sole Bank of Issue is to begin operations, that the amount collected is less than 5,000,000 pesos, the Federal Government shall furnish the bonds necessary to complete the amount, with which minimum capital the bank shall begin operations. Furthermore, the Government of the Federation shall furnish other assets, to be made known in due time, for increasing the capitalization of the institution.

Ball Bearing Company in Stockholm.

Vice Consul Arthur E. J. Reilly reports that a new ball-bearing company has been formed in Stockholm to exploit an arrangement for holding balls and keeping them close together. A patent has been granted and experiments have been made with the invention in Finland by Messrs Aug. Carlborg and G. Nyman. The share capital of the company is \$1,072,000.

OFFICES OF THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE.**DISTRICT OFFICES.**

NEW YORK: 734 Customhouse.
 BOSTON: 1801 Customhouse.
 CHICAGO: 504 Federal Building.
 ST. LOUIS: 402 Third National Bank Building.
 NEW ORLEANS: 1020 Hibernia Bank Building.
 SAN FRANCISCO: 507 Customhouse.
 SEATTLE: 848 Henry Building.

COOPERATIVE OFFICES.

CLEVELAND: Chamber of Commerce.
 CINCINNATI: Chamber of Commerce.
 CINCINNATI: General Freight Agent, Southern Railway, 96 Ingalls Building.
 LOS ANGELES: Chamber of Commerce.
 PHILADELPHIA: Chamber of Commerce.
 CHATTANOOGA: South American Agent, Southern Railway System.
 PORTLAND, OREG.: Chamber of Commerce.
 DAYTON: Greater Dayton Association.

INDUSTRIAL RECONSTRUCTION AFTER THE WAR.

[Consul Franklin D. Hale, Huddersfield, England, Sept. 27.]

Leaders in this industrial district of England who are keenly alive to the great problems that must be solved in the not far distant future have undertaken a series of conferences. These meetings will be entirely of an educational and expository character, and speakers of national reputation will discuss the various social, industrial, economic, Imperial, and international problems of the coming years. The first one was addressed by Hon. Christopher Addison, Minister of Reconstruction, and the following, quoted from the published report, are some of his statements:

There are few things of greater fundamental importance, which this country's traders as a whole, I think, have not recognized as much as they might have in times past, than that the securing of a sufficient supply of raw material, wherever it is, is the first essential step in industrial security.

What will happen on the cessation of hostilities to many hundreds of thousands of people who are at present employed in the production of war material? And also the millions of men, now in the Army, who will then be thrown on the industrial market? We must be prepared as well as possible to cope with this great difficulty. The War Office is studying the problem of the demobilization of the Army with great care. Over a million positions are being held for men to come back to. A great many employers feel it a point of honor to take back into their employment men who have served their country at the front, if they are physically able to do the work.

Predicts Need of Labor, Material, and Credit.

On the railways, in shipbuilding, and in the restoration of all trades, he said, there would be a great demand for workers. In addition to the need of labor, there would be required raw material, machinery, and money or credit to work with. It was right that ordinary trade channels should be used and returned into their normal condition as quickly as possible, but he was afraid there would be some raw materials of which there would be a real shortage. In those commodities of which there would be a world shortage effort must be made to obtain for the manufacturers and traders material to work with, and at the same time keep the price within bounds. Considerable time might elapse before normal shipping movements could be reestablished, but food and material for manufacturers would receive first attention. He advised, as of the greatest consequence, that the different trades should associate themselves together as soon as possible, with a view not only to helping the Government, but to gain the advantage to be derived from dealing with these difficulties by themselves as far as possible. The formation of proper trade associations, he said, was of the greatest consequence from the viewpoint of both employers and workmen. The speaker continued:

The war has taught and is teaching a great many lessons; it has removed some of our narrowness of vision; it has made us realize that a good many of our class prejudices are wholly artificial and harmful. It has also shown very clearly that this country has never made as much use as it ought to have made of brains; and that a few highly trained scientific men have accomplished much in supplying the armies and making them efficient and successful. We are learning that it pays to employ brains, and pay them properly. The country will never overcome the devastation of this war unless as a nation it increases its productivity.

To overcome the results of the war we need four things—better cooperation between capital and labor; better conditions of life; better training; and better

industrial methods. No real progress can be made in increasing output until in some way capital and labor can get together without bitterness and suspicion for the settlement of their differences.

Labor Cooperation for Increased Output.

Increased output calls for labor cooperation. Labor's interest in an increased output must be secured. Labor must understand that it is for its best interest to discourage anything that tends to limit output; and in the increased output labor must enjoy its legitimate share of benefits. Increased output can not be obtained without the hearty cooperation of labor, and that can not be won if its full rights are not respected.

It is often the fear of unemployment that makes labor hostile to improved methods. We can never expect a man to put his heart into introducing new methods that may turn him out into the streets.

There must also be improved conditions of housing. Nearly every village has such a problem; and the output of food from the land is intimately associated with the housing problem. National health depends largely on how the various communities solve the housing problem.

Hereafter, industrial progress, as never before, will demand a closer relation between the factory and the laboratory. There are too few well-trained experts in the country, but their number is going to be increased and a larger compensation paid.

There has been too great "stand-offishness" between the business community and educational authorities. Science must be brought more and more into the industrial life. Certainly there must be a larger conception of outlet. Trade must become better organized. Germany has been able successfully to invade the British market because it organized its buying and selling on comprehensive lines.

Must Have Best Possible Equipment.

Mr. Addison said the English had paid people the salaries of mere clerks to represent interests of the most vital nature. He suggested that if manufacturers and traders would properly and wisely examine their plants and processes, they would find much that ought to be scrapped. If they were to increase their productive power after the war, they must have the best plant possible and use the most up-to-date methods. Inefficient plants and working must be discarded if the costs of the war were to be paid by a greatly increased productive capacity.

He said the British farmer on the average fed from 45 to 50 persons per 100 acres of land, whereas the German farmer fed from 70 to 75. The British farmer grew 15 tons of corn on the 100 acres and the German farmer 33. From it the British farmer produced 11 tons of potatoes and the German farmer 55 tons. The British farmer produced 17½ tons of milk to the German farmer's 28 tons, and yet the British farmer had the better soil.

He said he had especially adapted his talk to the needs of this industrial community, but the same great principles would apply equally to other than textile industrial life. Similar reconstruction problems were to be found in the other fields of activity—power supply, coal and oil production, iron and steel trade, chemical trade, transportation, canals, railways, etc.

Forming of a Dyestuff Company in Sweden.

Vice Consul Arthur E. J. Reilly reports from Stockholm that a company has been formed to finance a Swedish dyestuff establishment to compete with the German manufacture at home and abroad. The founding of the company follows about two years of experimenting and the movement is supported by the country's scientific and technical experts.

FOREIGN TARIFFS.**BRITISH HONDURAS.****Increased Customs Duties.**

The Gazette Extraordinary of British Honduras for October 19, 1917, contains a list of articles subject to increased or modified import duties. For imported spirits, bitters, cordials, and liqueurs, the duty has been increased from \$3 to \$3.50 per proof gallon, while increases ranging from 20 to 66½ per cent of the former rates are provided for tobacco, cigars, cigarettes, wines, and aerated waters. The item specifying beer, porter, cider, and perry has been extended to include other malt liquors, the rate of duty remaining \$0.50 per gallon.

CANADA.

[Customs Memorandum, No. 2130B, 1917.]

Collection of Duty on Government Imports.

By an amendment to the Canadian Customs Act, assented to August 29, 1917, the regular customs duties are declared to be binding on and applicable to any goods imported by either the Dominion or Provincial Governments, whether or not the goods belong to the Government at the time of importation.

The Customs Act is further amended by providing that if any imported goods seized in a building within 100 yards of the international frontier are forfeited according to law, the building shall also be seized and torn down and removed.

[British Board of Trade Journal, Oct. 4.]

Customs Decisions.

Among the decisions published in Appraisers' Bulletin No. 1557 are tariff classifications of machines for attachment to automobiles to convert them into light tractors and of metal carrying wheels for use in the manufacture of road graders and tractors. Both are held to be dutiable under item 453 as iron or steel machinery not otherwise specified and iron or steel integral parts of the same, the rate of duty on imports from the United States being 35 per cent ad valorem, inclusive of the war surtax of 7½ per cent ad valorem. Grass rugs, such as Deltex, Crex, etc., composed of grass sewed and bound with cotton are classified under item 571, which provides for a general rate of duty of 32½ per cent ad valorem including the surtax. Galvanized steel shapes for concrete curbing, costing over 3½ cents per pound and not being square, round, oval, or flat, are dutiable at 37½ per cent ad valorem as manufactures of iron or steel not otherwise specified.

[Customs Memorandum No. 2124B, Oct. 4.]

Special Valuation of Rolled Iron and Steel.

In modification of the ruling of the Canadian Commissioner of Customs, described in COMMERCE REPORTS for September 25, 1917, that the nine-month period allowed for the importation of goods with the addition of not more than 25 per cent to the value should be computed from the date on which the specifications were made and not from that of the optional contract, an order in council has been issued making an exception in favor of rolled iron and steel. Such articles when ordered by the importer on specification within

nine months from the date of the contract and imported since July 4, 1917, within nine months of the time specified for exportation, will be dutiable on the fair market value of the goods on the date of the contract, with an addition of not more than 25 per cent of that value, instead of on the value on the date of exportation. The original order of July 4, 1917, permitted the collection of duty on goods imported within nine months after being ordered according to the value prevailing on the date of the contract with an addition of not over 25 per cent. (See COMMERCE REPORTS for July 14, 1917.)

NICARAGUA.

[Consul Andrew J. McConnico, Corinto, Oct. 4.]

Bill of Lading Regulations.

Instructions issued on September 1, 1917, by the Collector General of Customs of Nicaragua as Customs Administrative Circular No. 83 embody some of the principal provisions of the United States bill of lading law, the object being to facilitate the commercial intercourse between the two countries. In addition to the general statement of the principles, the circular contains instructions to the collectors of customs not to deliver goods covered by a direct bill of lading to anyone except the consignee named therein, unless the goods are consigned to a commission house and are evidently intended for another person, who presents the bill of lading properly indorsed. As to bills of lading "to order," it is provided that the insertion of the name of a person to be notified of the arrival of the goods does not limit the negotiability nor give the ultimate consignee the right to claim the goods unless he presents a properly indorsed bill of lading. As in the United States, bills of lading must be made out to the order of a named person and not simply "to order." The other provisions of the circular are intended to conform the practice in Nicaragua to that in the United States under the Federal bill of lading law.

Presentation of Shipping Documents.

In connection with the bill of lading regulations it is well to notice that consular invoices are required for all shipments of goods, including those by parcel post, when the value is \$50 or over. In addition, certificates of origin must be presented for any goods for which reductions in duty are claimed. The penalty for failure to produce the consular invoice when required is a fine of \$1, in addition to an amount equivalent to 50 per cent of the duties on the goods, if dutiable, or 50 per cent of their value if free of duty. Ordinarily failure to present the bill of lading will result in the imposition of a fine equal to the value of the goods, but if the manifest shows to whom the goods are consigned, delivery may be secured under sufficient bond to guarantee the presentation of the shipping documents at a later date. Six months will then be allowed in which to secure the bill of lading from any part of the world, the period for securing consular invoices being three months from North and South America and five months from other parts of the world.

[The Government of Nicaragua has recently adopted the uniform consular invoice recommended by the Fourth Pan American Congress. The form of invoice, as well as a list of goods for which certificates of origin should be presented, will be found in Tariff Series No. 24 and No. 24B (Consular Regulations of Foreign Countries—Canada and Latin America).]

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the Bureau and its district and cooperative offices. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and state opportunity number. The Bureau does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases. Symbols: * Reported by American consular officers; † Reported by commercial attachés and commercial agents; ‡ Direct inquiries received by the Bureau.

In considering the following "opportunities" special regard should be had to the laws and regulations governing export licenses and trading with the enemy.

Advertising novelties.....	25845	Leather.....	25836
Boots and shoes.....	25836	Machinery.....	25841, 25842, 25844
Chemicals.....	25836, 25843	Match machinery and materials.....	25839
Clocks.....	25840	Office appliances.....	25845
Dental and surgical instruments.....	25846	Paper.....	25843
Dry goods.....	25836, 25843	Preserved goods.....	25843
Enamelware.....	25836	Shoe polish.....	25836
Furniture, office.....	25847	Starch.....	25836
General representation.....	25837	Stationery.....	25843
Ink, printing.....	25838	Watches.....	25840

25836.†—A firm in England desires to be placed in communication with American manufacturers and exporters of dry goods, enamelware, boots and shoes, boot and shoe leather, shoe polish, chemicals, starch, etc. Reference.

25837.†—A man in Cuba desires to represent American manufacturers and exporters. He mentions no particular line.

25838.*—An agency is desired by a commission agent in Spain for the sale of printing inks. Correspondence should be in Spanish. References.

25839.†—A firm in India wishes to purchase match-making materials and machinery, such as chlorate of potash, bichromate of potash, powdered sulphur, potato starch, yellow dextrine, gum acrodis, infusorial earth, glass powder, phosphate ammonia, black antimony, rhodamine dye, golden sulphide of antimony, zinc white, asbestos powder, manganese, amorphous phosphorus, caput mortuum, leather glue, gum senegal and gum tragacanth, green straw paper, blue paper, brown paper sheets, match-box labels, etc. Also parts for match-dipping machines, peeling and veneer cutting machines, and box composition painting machines. References.

25840.*—A man in Spain desires to secure an agency for the sale of watches and clocks. Correspondence should be in Spanish. References.

25841.†—A company in India desires to be placed in communication with American manufacturers and exporters of machinery and equipment for making frame molding. References.

25842.*—An engineer in France wishes to purchase complete milling machines and equipment for a large milling plant, such as conveyors and all kinds of other apparatus for such an installation. Correspondence should be in French.

25843.†—A merchant from the Dutch East Indies, who is at present in the United States, desires to be placed in communication with American manufacturers and exporters of dry goods, preserved meats and vegetables, chemicals, paper and stationery, etc. References.

25844.*—A man in Portugal is in the market for ore crushing and concentrating machinery. Quotations should be made f. o. b. New York. Payment will be made against documents. Correspondence may be in English. Catalogues and price lists should be submitted. Reference.

25845.†—A business man in Argentina desires to secure an agency for the sale of advertising novelties and office appliances. Reference.

25846.*—A merchant in Italy wishes to purchase forceps and other dental and surgical instruments. Catalogues and discount sheets are desired at once. Parcel-post expense should be given together with prices. Cash will be paid. Correspondence may be in English. References.

25847.*—An agency is desired by a commission agent in Spain for the sale of office furniture. Correspondence may be in English. Payment will be made by check on New York bank on receipt of goods. References.

COMMERCE REPORTS



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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE



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PARIS AS A PORT.

[Consul General A. M. Thackara, Paris, France, Oct. 24.]

Periodical agitation has arisen since the seventeenth century in favor of uniting Paris with the sea in a way so as to render the connecting river or canal navigable to ships of large size. Since the flood of 1910 the problem has acquired a fresh interest. But the outbreak of the present war has caused the scheme to present itself to municipal and national authorities as one of capital importance, inasmuch as the inadequate port facilities and means of communication have militated strongly against the revictualing of the Paris region on reasonably favorable terms.

On December 30, 1916, the city council invited the prefect of the Seine to prepare "a technical, administrative and financial prospectus for the realization of the port of Paris," at the same time requesting the Provincial Government to "constitute a committee with the object of studying the organization and the financial régime to be applied to the port of Paris." The prefect of the Seine on March 23, 1917, reported progress along these lines. Preliminary studies were made by Government commissions appointed on February 9, 1910, and January 14, 1911, respectively. On the basis of these the investigation is continuing.

FUSION OF SWEDISH MATCH TRUSTS.

[Vice Consul Arthur E. J. Reilly, Stockholm, Oct. 23.]

Announcement is made of the fusion of the two great Swedish Match Trusts, Jönköpings & Vulcans Tändsticksfabriks Aktiebolag and Förenade (United) Tändsticksfabrikerna. The new organization will have a capital of about \$22,000,000 and will control not only the domestic but also the foreign branches of the industry, including the factories in Norway, Finland, Russia, and England, which until now belonged to one or the other of the parent corporations.

CONSULAR INVOICES FOR PARCEL-POST SHIPMENTS TO CHILE.

Attention has been frequently called in the pages of **COMMERCE REPORTS** to the necessity of furnishing legalized consular invoices with parcel-post shipments to Chile when the value of the package or packages exceeds £5, or \$24.33, but according to a report from one of the special agents of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, packages from prominent American firms continue to arrive without the required consular invoices. The fee for certification of invoices covering goods valued at not more than \$250 is \$3, and the fine for failure to present a certified invoice when required is three times the prescribed fee in addition to the regular fee itself.

Heretofore it has been necessary to send invoices from cities in the interior of the United States where no Chilean consulate was located to the consul general at New York for certification. A notice has been issued by the Chilean post office, however, referring to the decree of January 22, 1917, which permits consular invoices coming from places where there is no Chilean consul to be sent to the nearest consulate of Chile for certification.

[A list of the consulates of Chile and a description of the consular regulations, together with a copy of the prescribed form of consular invoice, will be found in Tariff Series No. 24 (Consular Regulations of Foreign Countries—Canada and Latin America). This booklet, with its supplements Tariff Series No. 24A and No. 24B, may be secured from the Superintendent of Documents for 10 cents.]

SURVEY OF WATERS FROM POINT JUDITH TO NEW YORK.

The United States Coast Pilot, Atlantic Coast, Part IV (Point Judith to New York), sixth edition, has been issued by the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey. This publication covers the coast and inland waters westward from the Narragansett Bay entrance to Sandy Hook, including Block Island Sound, Fishers Island Sound, Long Island Sound, New York Harbor, Hudson River, and tributaries, and embraces the coasts of a part of Rhode Island, Connecticut, and New York. Appendixes of the book contain descriptions of the anchorage grounds for the port of New York, with rules and regulations relating to them, and meteorological tables for Nantucket, Mass.; Providence and Block Island, R. I.; New London, Hartford, and New Haven, Conn.; New York City and Albany, N. Y. Copies of the book may be obtained at 50 cents each from the Coast and Geodetic Survey, Washington, D. C., or from the agencies of the Survey which are established in many ports of the United States and in some foreign ports.

MANUFACTURE OF CHAIRS IN MELBOURNE.

[Consul General J. I. Brittain, Sydney, Australia, Oct. 12.]

A firm is importing a large consignment of machinery from the United States for the manufacture of chairs, and this factory will probably be located at Melbourne. An effort was made some time ago to manufacture bent-wood chairs in Australia, as there is a high import duty on bent-wood chairs, to encourage the industry locally. The tendency, however, is to manufacture chairs more on the line of the better class American wood-seated chairs, rather than those made from bent wood.

ROYALTIES ON SKINS OF FUR-BEARING ANIMALS IN QUEBEC.

[Consul W. Roderick Dorsey, Quebec, Canada, Nov. 3.]

By proclamation dated October 31, 1917, the following scale of royalties is fixed for skins of fur-bearing animals taken or killed within the limits of the Province of Quebec: On each badger skin, 25 cents; beaver, 35; raccoon, 10; carcajou, 30; squirrel, 25 cents per 100; ermine, 2 cents each; otter, 75; rabbit, 5 cents per 100; wolf skin, first quality, 70 cents each; prairie wolf, 35; blue wolf, 25; lynx, 25; marten, 55; skunk, 15; black bear, 60; brown bear, 30; gray bear, 30; white bear, 70; pekan, \$1; black fox, \$15; blue fox, \$1.75; crossed fox, \$1.55; silver fox, \$10; white fox, \$1.30; red fox, 60 cents; bastard fox, 50; mink, 25; moose, 25; red deer, 10; caribou, 10.

Represent Reduction in Charges.

The collection of these royalties is authorized by paragraph 6 of article 2347 of the Quebec game laws, and applies to every person or association of persons engaged in the fur trade who directly or through an agent obtains fur-bearing animals killed or taken within the Province of Quebec. The charges are generally lower than those which were fixed in February, 1917, and which are now revoked. A few remain unchanged, but the majority range from 25 to 50 per cent below the old list. In the case of white-fox skins the royalty has been increased from \$1 to \$1.30. Muskrat and weasel skins disappear from the class that pays a specific royalty, while ermine, rabbit, and squirrel skins are added.

On all skins not specified a royalty amounting to 5 per cent of their commercial value will be collected.

STANDARDIZED WORKMEN'S HOUSES IN UNITED KINGDOM.

[John R. Snalam, clerk in American consulate, Huddersfield, Oct. 17.]

The urgent necessity for providing suitable housing accommodation for the working classes, owing to the great scarcity which has arisen from war conditions, is engaging the serious attention of the British Government. Definite action is now reported, and it is intended that the Local Government Board shall control the operations of the national housing scheme. Particulars have been requested from the various municipal councils in the country for the requirements of their respective areas, and it is stated that 100,000 new dwellings are required. The Government proposes, however, to erect from 150,000 to 200,000 to meet the demand which may exist after the war, and also to grant a subsidy of several million pounds sterling for this object.

The prospective plans are to construct standardized houses with a slight variation in dimensions and style for different localities. Where conditions permit, the cultivation of gardens will be encouraged to increase the food production of the country. A standard system of planting is also advocated, the number of houses not to exceed 12 for each acre. The width suggested for arterial roads is 100 feet, secondary roads 50 feet, and residential roads from 36 to 40 feet. Hygienic principles will be observed in the construction of these dwellings, and serious defects previously existing will be remedied.

DOMINICAN MARKET FOR PLUMBING SUPPLIES.

[Consul Clement S. Edwards, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, Oct. 12.]

An increasing demand for modern plumbing is to be noted in Santo Domingo as well as in the other chief towns of the Republic.

The lack of water works and a sewerage system has no doubt retarded the general installation of modern plumbing in the capital city, and it has been only recently that well-equipped bathrooms and toilets have been installed in the more pretentious of the elder residences and business blocks.

Since the American occupation, however, and the consequent growth of the American colony, there has been a great demand for residences with modern conveniences, and consequently in nearly all the new houses constructed, and those in process of construction, a convenient bathroom is considered a necessity. To keep abreast of the time, toilets and baths are also being installed in many of the old buildings.

There are but few experienced plumbers in the city of Santo Domingo, not more than four or five in all.

All plumbing supplies are imported from the United States. A bathroom may be installed within the following range of prices: Bathtub, from \$30 to \$36; toilet, \$20 to \$25; and lavatory, \$10 to \$15. Workmen and piping will require an expenditure of \$40 to \$50 in addition.

Bathtubs, etc., are classified under paragraph 163 of the Dominican tariff, as follows:

Paragraph 163, bathtubs, sitting and hip baths, wash basins or stands, for pipe connections or not, enameled, porcelain lined or not, G. W., 100 kilos, \$2.50.

In addition to the above there is a municipal tax of \$1.10 per 100 kilos (1 kilo=2.2 pounds) net weight.

[A list of importers of plumbing supplies in Santo Domingo can be obtained at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district or cooperative offices by referring to file No. 94182.]

MARKET FOR SUGAR MACHINERY IN JAMAICA.

[Consul C. L. Laibham, Kingston, Oct. 26.]

Owing to the serious damage caused by the hurricanes of the last three years, which resulted in at least a partial destruction of the banana crop, the sugar industry in Jamaica, which was this island's chief source of revenue 30 years ago, is coming into its own again. For the past year there has been a great deal of discussion among Jamaican planters concerning the revival of the sugar industry. Several plans have been put forward having to do with the erection of sugar centrals, some of them providing for governmental aid. The erection by private capital of several sugar factories is probable in the very near future.

This office is in position to state that there is now in Jamaica a splendid opportunity for the sale of sugar-making machinery suitable for plants up to 10,000 tons capacity. Catalogues, literature, etc., from American sugar-machinery manufacturers sent to the Kingston consulate will be distributed among the persons interested.

WAGE INCREASES COMPARED WITH LIVING COST.

[Consul M. K. Moorhead, Swansea, Wales, Oct. 3.]

According to the Labor Gazette, an official publication of the ministry of labor at London, the increase from July 1, 1914, to September 1, 1917, in the cost of living for a working-class family in the United Kingdom (including food, rent, clothing, fuel, and light) is estimated to have been approximately 85 per cent. The Cardiff and South Wales Journal of Commerce has estimated that the general wage rate payable at present in the coal fields of South Wales averages for all classes of labor 75 per cent higher than that which was in force when the war broke out. There is considerable variation, however, in the rate of increase of wages for the different classes of labor in the coal fields. This publication states:

A day-wage timber man employed on the afternoon or night shift before the war earned £1 16s. 4d. (\$8.84) per week. He now gets £3 3s. 8d. (\$15.49), or an increase equal to 75 per cent. A night haulier now gets £2 14s. 11d. as compared with £1 9s. 10d. (\$7.25) in July, 1914, an increase of 84 per cent; while a laborer has in a similar way had his standard earnings increased from £1 3s. 8d. (\$5.75) to £2 6s. 9d. (\$11.37) weekly, or by nearly 100 per cent.

Have Kept Pace with Cost of Living.

Since these statistics were prepared a further increase in wages to coal miners of 36 cents per day has been granted. This represents an additional advance of 15 to 20 per cent according to the class of labor, so that the total increase over wages that were paid at the outbreak of the war varies from 84 to 120 per cent. So far as the coal miners are concerned the advance in wages since the outbreak of the war has been as great as or greater than the rise in the cost of living.

The Labor Gazette for September, 1917, has published the following statistics showing the average increase in retail prices of principal foods in various countries in 1917 over 1914:

Countries.	Per cent increase.	Date in 1917.	Date in 1914.	Countries.	Per cent increase.	Date in 1917.	Date in 1914.
United Kingdom...	109	Sept. 1	July 1	Denmark.....	66	July 1	July 1
Sweden.....	74	May 1	Do.	Canada.....	60	June 1	Do.
Norway.....	97	do....	Do.	United States.....	48	May 15	July 15
Switzerland.....	73	June 1	Do.	Australia.....	26	Apr. 1	June 1
Italy.....	72	do....	Do.				

ENGLISH OR FRENCH CATALOGUES FOR ROUMANIA.

Under date of September 14 William Whiting Andrews, chargé d'affaires ad interim at the American legation in Jassy, Roumania, urges American business houses wishing to do an export trade with Roumania to issue their catalogues for that market in either the English or the French language—preferably the latter, for “very few Roumanians have knowledge of English, or, indeed, of any language except Roumanian and French.” The chargé adds: “Although at this time only an occasional request is received for information relating to American merchandise, the legation anticipates that upon the conclusion of peace there will be a considerable demand for American wares.”

AUSTRALIA ISSUES NEW TIN-PLATE REGULATIONS.

[Extract from Melbourne Age, forwarded by office of commercial attaché, Melbourne, Oct. 5.]

Australia is faced with a serious shortage of tin plates. The imperial authorities arranged some time ago to allow the Commonwealth 2,000 tons of tin plate each month. The quantity available to the end of the year will be about 12,000 tons, but that quantity is far from adequate to meet existing requirements. The minister of defense pointed out yesterday that, in view of the restricted quantity of tin plate now coming forward, there is urgent need for the utmost economy in the use of the material. He said it was imperative that stocks should be made to go as far as possible, and he urged strongly that householders should refrain from purchasing new articles made of tin plate. Old articles should be repaired in preference to new being purchased.

With a view to restricting the consumption of tin plate, a new regulation under the war-precautions act was issued yesterday, prohibiting, without the consent in writing of the director of munitions, the use of tin plates for the manufacture of the following articles:

- (a) Containers for boiled sweets.
- (b) Containers for packing butter in quantities less than 2 pounds, except for war purposes and for dispatch to soldiers abroad.
- (c) Second lids for containers for butter and cheese.
- (d) Stoves, phonograph horns, kerosene pumps.
- (e) Containers and articles to replenish stocks beyond the quantity required by the person for whom the containers and articles are manufactured for a period of three months, based on the quantity used during the corresponding period in the 12 months preceding the date of this notice.

Manufacturers accepting orders for containers or articles are advised to protect themselves by obtaining from the persons or firms concerned a statement in writing that the use of tin plates for the manufacture of such containers or articles is not a contravention of the regulation. No objection will be raised to contracts being entered into for larger supplies, as long as an arrangement is made that tin plate will not be printed or cut at any time in excess of the quantity authorized by this notice.

[Previous articles relating to Australian restrictions on the use of tin plate were published in COMMERCE REPORTS for Aug. 23 and 28, 1917.]

SHIPBUILDING INDUSTRY OF BILBAO, SPAIN.

[Consul Paul H. Foster, Bilbao, Oct. 4.]

There are in the vicinity of Bilbao three companies engaged in the construction of steel and iron vessels, complete with the exception of the machinery, which is brought from England, as follows: Compañía Euskalduna, whose yards are in Olaveaga, a suburb; Astilleros del Nervion, in the suburb Desierto; and Sociedad Española de Construcción Naval, at Sestao. The first of these had in building on January 1, 1917, a total of 10,557 tons; the second, at the same date, had on the ways 10,400 tons; and the third, 21,180 tons. The total launchings for the year 1916 were 7,815 gross tons, and for 1917, to date, 13,547 tons.

In addition to the construction work a great deal of repair work is done for both Spanish and foreign vessels. Other yards turn out small wooden schooners and brigs for fishing and coastwise service.

NEW ZEALAND'S TRADE WITH SAMOA.

[Consul General Alfred A. Winslow, Auckland, New Zealand, Oct. 5.]

Published reports given out by the New Zealand Government show that this Dominion takes much more in trade from Samoa than it supplies to that country. A statement from the administrator of Samoa which appeared in a daily newspaper of this city is in part:

The excess of exports over imports of £44,000 (\$214,126), shows a material gain to the territory, as the bank deposits have increased by £42,577 (\$207,201), and the administration has reduced its indebtedness to the Government of New Zealand for gold and silver coin supplied in 1915 by approximately £8,600 (\$41,852). It will be seen that although New Zealand is a very poor purchaser for the produce of the territory, close on £50,000 (\$243,325) is remitted by cash balances for surplus imports, and this is exclusive of the value of rations and forage sent from New Zealand for the use of the garrison. It is unfortunate that the business men of New Zealand are so slow in developing trade with Samoa, which so largely deals with them in the sales of produce. Unless more energy is shown by them they will undoubtedly lose this one-sided trade, and the United States and Australia will correspondingly benefit.

The record of one Auckland firm will show how the trade of New Zealand is being lost. This firm, although it has no representative in Samoa, has practically all the native business in tinned beef, which amounts roughly in value to £12,000 (\$58,398) per annum, or more than one-sixth of the total imports and more than one-ninth of the total New Zealand-Samoan trade; yet during the last few months this firm has been filling only 30 to 70 per cent of the orders sent. Three or four storekeepers are now endeavoring to procure supplies from Queensland. The Queensland beef, it is stated, is suitable for the trade here, and if once the Queensland merchants get a footing in Samoa it is unlikely that the trade will ever return to New Zealand, as the Australian commercial travelers are keen business men. The returns for the current year are so far good. Unfortunately shipping space is almost unprocureable, and there are thousands of tons of copra stored in Samoa. The stores are full, and large stacks of sacks of copra are built outside and covered with tarpaulins.

Much interest is taken in this matter at present by the New Zealand business men, with the idea of meeting the demands of trade to these islands since they are under the control of the New Zealand Government and should look to New Zealand for goods. This means that Auckland merchants would require a much larger supply of merchandise for transshipment to Samoa to meet the demand.

JAPAN'S ECONOMISTS ANALYZE TRADE RETURNS.

[Extract from Japan Times forwarded by Consul General George H. Seidmore, Yokohama, Oct. 13.]

The trade returns for the first 10 days of October, 1917, show 52,218,000 yen (\$26,030,673) in exports and 28,513,000 yen (\$14,213,731) in imports. The total excess from January was 464,202,000 yen (\$231,404,697).

The exports of gold were 2,000,000 yen (\$997,000), while the imports were 3,948,000 yen (\$1,968,078), leaving a balance of 1,948,000 yen (\$971,078), against 5,385,000 yen (\$2,684,423) for the corresponding period in the preceding year.

The present situation is a new turn. The zenith of war-time prosperity has passed, and since the advent of 1917 the economists of the nation have been forecasting the phenomenon which has now actually appeared. The flourishing cycle of three years passed with last July, so that from now on the bad years are expected.

GREAT BRITAIN DOUBLES PRE-WAR SOAP SALES.

On the basis of exports during the first nine months of the current year, the United Kingdom will sell abroad in 1917 some \$21,000,000 worth of British-made soaps, or double the value of the exports in pre-war years. For January-September alone the shipments approach within \$879,000 of those for the entire year 1916, which year was itself a record in this respect.

The importation of foreign soaps into the United Kingdom, however, was prohibited except under license in February, 1916, since which date that trade has dwindled and amounted to only \$100,000 for the first nine months of 1917. This is in contrast to annual imports of \$2,500,000 worth of foreign soaps in pre-war times. The reexportation of foreign soaps from Great Britain is likewise declining.

British Official Trade Returns.

The following table traces the British trade in foreign and domestic soaps during the past six years, the figures being those shown by official British returns:

Soap.	1912	1913	1914	1915	1916	1917 ¹
IMPORTS.						
	<i>Cwt.</i>	<i>Cwt.</i>	<i>Cwt.</i>	<i>Cwt.</i>	<i>Cwt.</i>	<i>Cwt.</i>
Stock.....	85,630	52,984	75,308	28,967	6,118	805
Soft.....	3,127	4,367	7,164	2,970	732	.....
Household and laundry.....	156,603	162,188	108,948	181,263	83,154	4,135
Polishing and scouring.....	5,345	4,825	3,770	2,802	2,184	.....
Powder.....	48,135	55,790	49,387	56,526	25,100	54
Toilet.....	14,945	19,978	15,447	18,137	12,860	1,004
Unenumerated.....	172,808	144,960	175,487	174,261	103,465	8
Total quantity.....	486,602	445,091	433,512	465,986	233,635	6,006
Total value.....	\$2,546,955	\$2,544,090	\$2,287,120	\$2,791,285	\$1,759,319	\$191,540
EXPORTS.						
	<i>Cwt.</i>	<i>Cwt.</i>	<i>Cwt.</i>	<i>Cwt.</i>	<i>Cwt.</i>	<i>Cwt.</i>
Soft.....	41,454	39,043	31,183	97,201	60,261	68,302
Household and laundry.....	1,586,218	1,583,968	1,583,629	1,687,633	1,962,006	1,670,663
Polishing and scouring.....	9,384	9,206	6,621	6,691	8,780	7,384
Powder.....	30,701	25,135	29,698	22,819	28,452	11,977
Toilet.....	82,404	85,637	79,735	92,267	120,989	76,006
Unenumerated.....	2,944	4,287	4,343	5,179	4,250	2,391
Total quantity.....	1,753,105	1,747,374	1,735,200	1,911,090	2,172,738	1,826,633
Total value.....	\$10,090,806	\$10,184,065	\$10,636,501	\$12,200,060	\$16,831,318	\$15,952,175
REEXPORTS.						
	<i>Cwt.</i>	<i>Cwt.</i>	<i>Cwt.</i>	<i>Cwt.</i>	<i>Cwt.</i>	<i>Cwt.</i>
Stock.....	980	3,063	11,262	245	.....	.....
Soft.....	56	134	19	54	4	(?)
Household and laundry.....	14,768	14,983	9,302	8,079	1,745	1,416
Polishing and scouring.....	21	65	34	15	22	(?)
Powder.....	104	112	316	127	2	(?)
Toilet.....	454	583	432	814	305	(?)
Unenumerated.....	86	322	197	2,446	1,431	200
Total quantity.....	16,469	19,262	21,562	11,780	3,579	1,650
Total value.....	\$107,695	\$132,525	\$145,620	\$84,365	\$36,735	\$87,75

¹ Nine months, January to September.

² Included in "Unenumerated."

In addition to the shipments above shown, the United Kingdom buys small quantities of "transparent soap in the manufacture of which spirit has been used." The "hundredweight" used in the table is the British hundredweight of 112 pounds.

Increased Trade with Foreign Countries.

In commenting on the gratifying increase in the sale of British-made soaps to other countries, the *Economist* (London) says, in its October 20 issue:

The balance of trade in favor of the United Kingdom last year [1916] was, roughly, 100,000 tons weight and over £3,000,000 sterling in value. Of the imports, 77 per cent was derived from America and moderate quantities from France and Italy prior to the war, and about the same holds good now.

The most striking thing is the large increase in trade with foreign countries. Whereas in 1913 something over half was sent to British possessions and less than half the exports went to foreign countries, the position is now reversed, more than 50,000 tons of household and laundry soap being dispatched to the order of foreign buyers last year, an increase of 40 per cent on 1913; and 47,200 tons to British possessions, an increase of only 9 per cent. The Netherlands and the Dutch Indies, France, Italy, and Morocco all took very much larger quantities than in pre-war years—in point of fact, two and three times as much. Exports to China fell away, but those to South America were sustained. India, our largest customer, and Egypt both showed satisfactory increases. The distribution of our exports is world-wide, and the statistics indicate that our manufacturers have got a fairly good hold upon markets abroad—an advantage which they are preparing to extend.

As illustrating the upward trend of prices, it may be added that the average value of household or common soap exported advanced from 20s. [\$4.87] per hundredweight f. o. b. in 1913 to 27s. [\$6.57] in 1916, while all kinds together moved up from 24s. [\$5.84] to 32s. [\$7.79] per hundredweight.

MOTORCYCLES IN BRAZIL.

[Consul General Alfred L. M. Gottschalk, Rio de Janeiro, Sept. 25.]

Requests have been received for information as to the possible market here for motorcycles and accessories therefor, and it would seem proper to make the situation clear to many who have a wrong conception of the situation here.

While there is no direct legislation against motorcycles in Brazil, there is an unusually high license for operating the same. Their use is also restricted by the lack of good roads to certain large cities and their immediate vicinity and other conditions.

There do not seem to be more than 400 or 500 motorcycles in use in the whole of Brazil, these being found chiefly in the cities of Rio de Janeiro and São Paulo, with a few scattered through the States of Minas Geraes, Rio de Janeiro, and Paraná.

Most of these motorcycles are of American make, with a few of a British make. Prior to the war some Swiss and French makes were also offered for sale on the market, but there are none on sale now.

A license tax of 150 milreis per machine must be paid each year in the Federal district.

There are only three motorcycle clubs—the Rio Moto Club, the Moto Club do Brazil, and the Club Motocyclista Nacional—and their membership is very limited.

In regard to parts and accessories, there would seem to be no inducement offered to anyone who would contemplate carrying a general stock of these, as the representatives of the various machines generally stock such parts and accessories as are required for the machines which they represent.

PUBLIC INSTRUCTION IN COOKERY IN LONDON.

[Vice Consul Keith Merrill, London, England, Oct. 5.]

Instruction in cookery in and around London is at present stimulated by the necessity for a certain amount of training for all housewives along the lines of economical cooking of war foodstuffs, in addition to the regular training of pupils in the art of ordinary cooking for times of peace.

To fill the need of the first type of cooking, the Ministry of Food has advised that for those who can afford to pay the usual prices courses may be taken at the following accredited cooking schools: National Training School of Cookery, Buckingham Palace Road, S. W. 1; Marshall's School of Cookery, Buckingham Palace Road, S. W. 1; British College of Cookery, Economy Hall, 316 Regent Street, W.

Traveling Kitchens Provided by London County Council.

If lessons are required for working-class people who can afford to pay nothing, the London County Council sends its traveling kitchen, a motor car equipped with various culinary paraphernalia. The course in each place consists of six demonstrations, each a week apart, according to the following syllabus:

1. Voluntary rations; food that serves the same purpose as meat; how to get the best value for money.
2. Substitutes for wheat flour; use of oatmeal, barley flour, maize (corn) meal, and other cereals.
3. Economical use of sugar; aids and substitutes.
4. Catering for a week; unwise purchasing; the evils of under-feeding; the relation of price to value.
5. Kitchen economies; stock, gravy, fat; the salad garden; the abuse of the refuse tub.
6. The fireless cooker, the "hot-water jacket," etc.; other devices for fuel saving.

Domestic-Economy Instruction in Public Schools.

To fill the need for training in the art of ordinary cooking for times of peace the London County Council has provided courses in domestic economy (cookery, laundry work, and housewifery) in both the day schools and its evening institutes. Children are required to attend these schools between the ages of 5 and 14 years, and the course in domestic science is taken during the last two years of their attendance.

The pupils devote one-half day each week to this subject, although in certain districts pupils are withdrawn, either entirely or for at least half the week, from school duties during a period varying from three to six months falling within their last year at school, so that they may engage in the domestic work under as realistic conditions as possible, an experiment necessitated by the problem of reconciling the requirements of the domestic-economy course with the demands of school time, having regard to the special conditions existing in London. The materials required for practical work at the cookery centers are purchased by instructresses, and the cooked food is sold to the children and teachers, which pays about 90 per cent of the cost of materials.

In January, 1917, the 178 cookery centers, 56 laundry centers, 128 combined cookery and laundry centers, and 72 housewifery centers provided places in all for 65,500 children.

Evening Instruction—War-Time Meals.

The foregoing comprises the schedule of obligatory instruction for girls between the ages of 5 and 14. There are also the evening institutes—schools attended by all ages from 14 to 60—in which the plan of teaching is elastic, with a view to making the greatest appeal to the heterogeneous types of pupils in attendance. The purpose is to continue the education and to develop the economic powers of the individual from the point to which she has been brought by former instruction and study. To obtain the greatest personal interest in the course the psychology of the pupil is considered in the taking up of an attractive thing first; the subject matter is never considered of more value than the development of the economic power of the individual.

Special courses of lessons may be arranged for war-time meals—on catering and cooking dinners, suppers, breakfasts, and teas for four or more persons at twopence, threepence, sixpence, ninepence, and one shilling (4, 6, 12, 18, and 24 cents) per person, under the following heads:

1. In each case a comparison of cost of cooking by gas or coal fire, with and without the aid of fuel-saving contrivances, such as the haybox (fireless) cooker, should be made.
2. In every case the cost per portion must be calculated, and the time spent in preparation of the dish noted.
3. The food value of the dish should be discussed.
4. The attention of students should be directed to the special reports on the markets (wholesale and retail) in the daily press.

Advanced Courses Offered by Polytechnic Institutes.

In addition to the day schools and evening institutes, various polytechnic institutes, supported by the authorities and the reasonable tuition fees collected from the students, supply finishing and advanced courses in all subjects of domestic science. The tuition may be paid for at approximately 30s. (\$7.30) per year or for the particular course, varying from 1s. 6d. to 6s. 6d. (from \$0.37 to \$1.58). Consultations and numerous demonstrations as to war-time cookery are free.

These polytechnic institutes require for entrance a thorough grounding in the elementary subjects. Special courses of wide range are provided in trade subjects for apprentices or domestics who can attend only at night. The first of these, taking two hours once a week, has to do with trade cookery, for cooks and housekeepers, and comprises the following subjects:

1. Economical soups and stocks; vegetable puree; Indian fish soup; Portuguese; etc.
2. Plain and dressed fish; pies; escallops; cakes; puddings; fish stocks and how to use them.
3. Vegetarian dishes; curried vegetables; ragout of haricot beans; spaghetti cutlets; escaloped salsify.
4. Economical entrees; Bengal cutlets; Italian croquettes; Indian ragout; beef and mutton en casserole.
5. Sweets, hot and cold.
6. Breakfast dishes and savories.

A supplementary second course is arranged as follows:

1. Stocks and soups; consommés; vegetable purees; creams, etc.; various garnishes for different soups.
2. Breakfast and luncheon dishes; various egg dishes; macaroni, spaghetti, etc.; cheese dishes; dressed vegetables.
3. Plain and fancy fish dishes; fish creams, cold fish dishes, etc.; different sauces for fish dishes.
4. Meat, game, and poultry; trussing game; various dishes (hot and cold), cutlets, fillets, brains, kidneys, sweetbreads, etc.; meat and game pies; galantines; casserole cooking; aspic jelly.
5. Sweets, hot and cold; soufflés, etc.; jellies, creams, cakes; French fruit tarts; biscuits; water and cream ices.
6. Savories, hot and cold; hors d'oeuvres.

Scholarships—Lectures and Practical Work.

Scholarships in cookery are provided for candidates between the ages of 17 and 35 years, who have been in domestic service at least one year, providing 12 weeks' instruction under a qualified chef, a meal every school day, and £5 (roughly \$25) toward traveling expenses.

In order that a proper perspective may be maintained through the whole instruction, pupils are given a free course in experimental science in connection with the cookery classes:

Lectures.—Food, its function, classification of constituents, nutritive value, digestion, the action of enzymes.

The following foodstuffs will be studied in some detail, and questions relating to preservatives and adulterants considered: Milk, butter, cheese, eggs, cereals, pulses, vegetables, nuts and fruits, meat, and fish.

The dietetic value of these foods and the effect of cooking.

Practical work.—This will be carried out by the students, and the course will deal with simple chemical principles; saponification of fats; reactions and tests for carbohydrates, proteins, etc.; action of digestive enzymes on foods; the examination of milk; comparison of strengths of flours; action of yeast; preparation of baking powder; composition of self-raising flours, corn flour, custard powders, egg powders; tests for the chief adulterants in some ordinary foods.

MINERAL PRODUCTION IN JAPAN.

[Trade Commissioner J. Morgan Clements, Tokyo, Oct. 11.]

The Japanese Bureau of Mines has published a summary of the mineral products of Japan for 1916. The most important of these returns, excluding Formosa and Korea, are as follows:

Product.	Quantity.	Value.	Product.	Quantity.	Value.
METALLIC.			METALLIC—con.		
Antimony:				771	\$1,152,206
Refined...short tons..	11,885	\$4,265,623	Tungsten ore...short tons..	37	31,177
Crude.....do.....	28	7,196	Molybdenum ore...do....	42,943	13,553,446
Chromic iron ore, long tons	8,149	159,777	Zinc.....do.....		
Copper.....pounds..	221,398,147	54,696,680	NONMETALLIC.		
Gold.....troy ounces..	251,199	5,144,971		2,538	31,928
Gold, placer.....do....	2,386	40,626	Asphalt.....short tons..	25,237,541	40,140,086
Iron:			Coal:	118,807	101,640
Ore.....long tons..	155,678		Bituminous.....do....		107,413
Pig.....do.....	354,259		Lignite.....do.....		
Lead.....short tons..	12,503	1,870,455	Natural gas.....	2,450,064	7,468,354
Manganese ore.....		473,655	Petroleum gas, barrels (42	1,261	25,903
Platinum (placer), troy			gallons).....	112,514	622,886
ounces.....	70	2,297	Graphite.....short tons..	89,608	382,180
Quicksilver, flasks (75			Phosphate rock, long tons.	104,259	2,139,179
pounds net).....	6	453	Pyrite.....do.....		
Silver.....troy ounces..	5,805,691	3,553,260	Sulphur.....do.....		
Tin.....pounds..	556,360	231,350			

ZINC PRODUCTION IN ITALY.

[Vice Consul Ilo C. Funk, Milan, Sept. 15.]

Italy possesses rich mines of zinc, but as it is not a coal-producing country and the production of zinc requires large quantities of this fuel, the output of the metal is a recent development. Even now the quantity is so limited that necessarily it must depend on the United States for its requirements.

In normal times considerable quantities of zinc ore are obtained in this country and exported to Belgium and Great Britain. The latest available publication of the Ministry of Agriculture at Rome shows that in 1915 the zinc minerals obtained in Italy amounted to 80,622 tons, against 145,914 in 1914. The decrease is explained by the abnormal conditions created by the war. In Lombardy, which represents the consular district of Milan, the production, on the other hand, was larger in 1915 than in 1914, or 11,719 against 9,667 tons. This was due to the activities displayed by the Vieille Montagne Co., and the English Crown Spelter Co. The former being unable to use its foundries in Belgium, sent the minerals to Viviers, France, where it owns other foundries, while the latter succeeded in getting freight facilities and carried the minerals to Swansea, Great Britain, as usual.

Use of Metal in Various Manufactures.

In Lombardy spelter is used extensively for manufacturing brass and for galvanizing. Considerable use is made also of zinc sheets. In addition to such uses as the manufacture of eyelets and tips for shoe and corset laces, dry batteries, automobile sundries, watches, clocks, washboards, and novelties, zinc sheets are very largely used for roofing and for various other purposes.

Both spelter and zinc sheets are imported from the United States. Figures are given in the latest publication of the Ministry of Finance, showing imports from January 1 to March 31, 1917, compared with corresponding periods in 1916 and 1915. The quantities by countries of origin were:

Articles and countries.	Jan. 1 to Mar. 31.			Articles and countries.	Jan. 1 to Mar. 31.		
	1915	1916	1917		1915	1916	1917
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.		Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
Spelter.....	2,264	2,748	3,340	Zinc sheets.....	591	189	316
United States.....	700	2,145	3,298	United States.....	2	88	152
France.....	9	58	41	France.....		70	148
Holland.....		105		Holland.....	34		
Switzerland.....	37	21		Other countries.....	555	12	16
Other countries.....	1,518	419	1				

There is no demand for spiegeleisen, inasmuch as Italy produces ferromanganese. In 1915 there was an output of 365 tons of ferromanganese. The demand for ferromanganese is not very large. In fact, only one concern turns out Bessemer steel. It appears that in the past ferromanganese was even shipped to the States.

Some Zinc Oxide Imported.

Zinc oxide is produced here, but some also is imported. During the first quarter of 1917 Italy imported 257 tons, valued at 231,000

lire. Of this amount 173 tons came from the United States. The Italian production in 1915 amounted to 2,565 tons. The consumption of zinc dust and zinc chloride is insignificant and, in the opinion of dealers, the two products are not worth while considering. Very little lead oxide is imported. In 1915 the production in Italy amounted to 2,800 tons.

Sulphuric acid is obtained in almost every region of this country. In Lombardy alone there are 14 factories. In 1915 the production amounted to 626,000 tons, valued at 28,000,000 lire.

Ocher of low quality is produced here extensively, and also is shipped to the States. On the other hand, there is a demand for the best grades of ocher for the manufacture of linoleum, which, it is believed, it will be possible to import from America. Dealers here desire offers.

[A list of dealers in metals at Milan, Italy, may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 94398.]

SHORTAGE OF CERTAIN ARTICLES IN NEW ZEALAND.

[Consul General Alfred A. Winslow, Auckland, Sept. 6.]

There is a great shortage of certain supplies in New Zealand, especially in white lead, linseed oil, glass, corrugated iron, wire, and hardware in general. In consequence prices have increased in many cases to almost prohibitive figures. Glass that cost \$5.47 before the war now must pay \$6.08 for freight alone. Corrugated iron that sold here before the war at \$77.86 per ton is hard to secure at \$389.32 per ton, and even roofing substitutes are difficult to obtain at anything like reasonable prices.

There should be no difficulty in finding ready sale for large quantities of any of these classes of goods if they can be brought into this market, and it would be well for American manufacturers of these goods who are in position to get them forward to communicate with New Zealand importers.

[A list of the principal New Zealand importers of dry goods, hardware, machinery, drugs, paints, etc., may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, or its district or cooperative offices, by referring to file No. 93485.]

A firm in Hongkong, China, has informed Consul General Anderson that it desires to establish connections in the United States with the object of exporting essential oils, hides, rice, and tungsten ore. It also seeks connections with American firms in Buenos Aires, Cuba, and Bolivia. The name may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 94065.

OFFICES OF THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE.

DISTRICT OFFICES.

NEW YORK: 734 Customhouse.
BOSTON: 1801 Customhouse.
CHICAGO: 504 Federal Building.
ST. LOUIS: 402 Third National Bank Building.
NEW ORLEANS: 1020 Hibernia Bank Building.
SAN FRANCISCO: 307 Customhouse.
SEATTLE: 848 Henry Building.

COOPERATIVE OFFICES.

CLEVELAND: Chamber of Commerce.
CINCINNATI: Chamber of Commerce.
CINCINNATI: General Freight Agent, Southern Railway, 96 Ingalls Building.
LOS ANGELES: Chamber of Commerce.
PHILADELPHIA: Chamber of Commerce.
CHATTANOOGA: South American Agent, Southern Railway System.
PORTLAND, OREG.: Chamber of Commerce.
DAYTON: Greater Dayton Association.

PROPOSALS FOR GOVERNMENT SUPPLIES AND CONSTRUCTION.

[Correspondence should be direct with the offices named, and specifications and other information can usually be obtained at the points where the goods are to be delivered or the work is to be performed. In cases where the time limit is too short to permit firms to submit tenders, they should ask to be placed on the mailing lists of such offices to receive notices calling for future supplies or work of a similar nature.]

Panama Canal supplies, No. 4907.—Sealed proposals will be received by the General Purchasing Officer, The Panama Canal, Washington, D. C., for furnishing, free of all charges, on dock at either Colon (Atlantic port) or Port of Ancon (Balboa, Canal Zone) (Pacific Port), Isthmus of Panama, the following articles: Steel, car wheels, steel pipe, boiler tubes, chain, bronze bars, copper tubing, boats, staples, tacks, grommets, pipe fittings, valves, cocks, sanitary fixtures, refrigerating apparatus, refrigerator doors, laundry washers, baggage trucks, saws, axes, manure forks, gauge lamps, steam whistles, gasoline torches, butts, turnbuckles, grease cups, hose, signal flags, detonators, dynamite, lime, wood alcohol, roofing cement, plaster of Paris, steel tapes, twine, toilet paper, and lumber. Circular 1182.

School buildings, No. 4908.—Sealed proposals will be received by the Bureau of Yards and Docks, Navy Department, Washington, D. C., until November 30, 1917, for the construction of an electrical school and a general school at the naval operating base, Hampton Roads, Va. Specifications No. 2093.

Navy Department supplies, No. 4909.—Sealed proposals will be received by the Bureau of Supplies and Accounts, Navy Department, Washington, D. C., and firms desiring to submit proposals should give schedule numbers for furnishing the following: Schedule 1566, iron round-head machine screws and brass flat-head, etc., machine screws; schedule 1567, horizontal boring and drilling machine; schedule 1568, 300,000 pounds type-testing machine and electrically driven planer and joiner; and schedule 1569, heavy-duty engine lathe.

Dredging, No. 4910.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Bureau of Yards and Docks, Navy Department, Washington, D. C., until December 3, 1917, for dredging basin inside of coal dock and breakwater, United States Naval Coal Depot, Newport, R. I. Specifications No. 2673.

Surveying instruments, No. 4911.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Office of the Superintendent, Coast and Geodetic Survey, 205 New Jersey Avenue SE., Washington, D. C., until December 3, 1917, for surveying instruments.

Locomotive cranes, No. 4912.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Bureau of Yards and Docks, Navy Department, Washington, D. C., until November 26, 1917, for two electrically operated and one steam-operated locomotive jib cranes of 50 gross tons capacity for the dry dock at the navy yards, Norfolk, Va., Philadelphia, Pa., and New York, N. Y. Specifications No. 2666.

Steam tug, No. 4913.—Sealed proposals will be received by the lighthouse inspector, Buffalo, N. Y., until November 24, 1917, for furnishing one 40-foot steam tug complete, with boiler and engine, for immediate delivery.

Steam shovels and boilers, No. 4914.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the General Purchasing Officer, The Panama Canal, Washington, D. C., until January 15, 1918, for the purchase of steam shovels and Scotch marine boilers offered for sale by The Panama Canal and which are no longer needed.

Cup grease, No. 4915.—Sealed proposals will be received at the General Depot of the Quartermaster Corps, War Department, 3615 Iron Street, Chicago, Ill., until November 21, 1917, for furnishing and delivering cup grease in such quantities and at such times as may be required by the Quartermaster Corps during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1918.

Heating system, No. 4916.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Bureau of Yards and Docks, Navy Department, Washington, D. C., until December 10, 1917, for furnishing and installing heating system in the foundry at the Navy Yard, Philadelphia, Pa. Specifications No. 2645.

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the Bureau and its district and cooperative offices. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and state opportunity number. The Bureau does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases. Symbols: * Reported by American consular officers; † Reported by commercial attachés and commercial agents; ‡ Direct inquiries received by the Bureau.

In considering the following "opportunities" special regard should be had to the laws and regulations governing export licenses and trading with the enemy.

Army officers' apparel.....	25853	Electrical supplies.....	25852, 25854
Automobile.....	25850	Heaters.....	25852, 25855
Bathroom fittings.....	25852	Jewelry.....	25849
Boots and leggings.....	25853	Marine motors.....	25851
Cotton goods.....	25857	Railway supplies.....	25856
Cranes.....	25848	Wearing apparel.....	25857
Diamonds.....	25849		

25848.*—The Department of Harbor and Docks of a city of Norway desires to purchase a number of cranes, varying from $\frac{1}{2}$ to $1\frac{1}{2}$ tons capacity, mounted on trucks and operated with storage batteries for use in the harbor, mounted so that they can be transferred from one place to another. Correspondence may be in English.

25849.*—A jeweler in the Dutch East Indies wishes to purchase, and also desires an agency for all kinds of good jewelry, such as rings, bracelets, pins, silverware, and especially diamonds. Cash will be paid against documents. Correspondence may be in English.

25850.*—A man in Sweden desires to purchase one pleasure automobile. Cash will be paid. Correspondence may be in English.

25851.*—A firm in Spain desires to purchase two marine motors using crude oils for 210-ton sailing vessels; speed, 8 miles. Cash will be paid or cable credit. Correspondence may be in English, French, or Spanish. References.

25852.*—A retail buyer in Italy is in the market for copper bath heaters, using coal and wood; electric, silk-covered wire. 200 volts, usual diameter; electroliers of novelty shape; nicked taps for water; porcelain bathroom fittings, such as tubs, water-closets, washstands, lavatories, etc. Quotations should be made f. o. b. New York. Terms, bank credit against shipping documents. Correspondence should be in French or Italian. References.

25853.*—A firm in Canada desires to be placed in communication with American manufacturers of army officers' peak caps, pigskin leggings, boots, and rain-coats. Terms, cash on delivery. Reference.

25854.*—A company in England wishes to buy outright, or to secure the sole agency for ceiling fans, 220 volts, 180/200 watts. 4 wooden blades $56\frac{3}{8}$ inch sweep, with hanger and canopy sans down rods; desk fans, 16 inches, 220 volts; fan regulators, 5 points, 220 volts; electric lamps, 5 to 50 cp., 110 and 220 volts, per 1,000; bracket electrical fans; and also $\frac{1}{4}$ -watt lamps. Quotations should be made f. o. b. New York. Terms, cash in New York against shipping documents. Reference.

25855.*—A firm in Italy desires to purchase petroleum stoves and petroleum ovens. Quotations should be made f. o. b. New York. Terms, bank credit against shipping documents. Correspondence may be in English. Immediate offers are requested. References.

25856.*—A railway purchasing commission in Switzerland is in the market for railway equipment and accessories for ordinary and electrical railways, such as wheels, axles, rails, car outfits, etc., in large quantities, if possible in European measurements. Quotations should be made f. o. b. New York. Correspondence should be in French or German. References.

25857.*—An import commission firm in Greece desires to be placed in communication with American export firms dealing in dry goods of all kinds, such as bleached and unbleached cotton, calicoes, muslins, and also underwear, shirtwaists, skirts, hosiery, and handkerchiefs. Correspondence may be in English. References.

NOV 20 1917 **COMMERCE REPORTS**



DAILY CONSULAR AND TRADE REPORTS
ISSUED DAILY BY THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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FINAL FORECAST OF INDIAN JUTE CROP.

The final official forecast of the jute crop in Bengal, Bihar and Orissa, and Assam places the 1917 area at 2,729,699 acres, an increase of 27,000 acres over last year; and the yield at 8,904,364 bales of jute, an increase of 524,511 bales over the production in these three Provinces during 1916.

GREECE INCREASES POST AND TELEGRAPH RATES.

[Consul General Alexander W. Weddell, Athens, Oct. 12.]

An increase of postal and telegraph rates is announced for the interior of Greece in the Government Gazette of September 7 O. S. On telegrams to foreign countries other than Serbia, Bulgaria, and Roumania there is also a tax imposed of 50 lepta (\$0.0965 at normal exchange), irrespective of the length of the message.

CONDITIONS IN ENGLISH LEATHER TRADE.

[Consul E. Haldeman Dennison, Birmingham, Oct. 22.]

Reports from Northampton and Stafford on the boot and shoe making industries indicate that the demand for leather for army boots continues to be as urgent as ever. Factories are short of stock and have to rely on weekly deliveries to keep going. Samples of the new civilian standard boots [see COMMERCE REPORTS for Nov. 3, 1917,] have been received, and it is stated that 13,000 to 14,000 pairs a week will be required from Northampton houses. The specifications for the standard boots have been drawn up by the Government, which also supplies the leather. The manufacturer's profit is fixed at 5 per cent; the distributor's or retailer's profit is 20 per cent on

returns, with the addition of a cash discount of 5 per cent in 30 days or 6½ per cent prompt cash.

In Stafford, where high-grade footwear is the staple product, it has been recognized that standard boots, which are primarily intended to supply the needs of the working classes, can not be economically produced, and these firms have therefore been asked to supply what are termed "controlled" boots. These boots are more stylish than the "standard" but less costly than the footwear at present sold. Manufacturers are to be compelled to devote not less than a third of their civilian output to the new production, so that there should be no lack of supplies.

Wholesale and retail prices are to be controlled. Men's high shoes will range from 16s. to 21s. (from \$3.90 to \$5.10), women's from 15s. 6d. to 19s. 6d. (from \$3.75 to \$4.75), and children's from 6s. 11d. to 12s. 11d. (from \$1.70 to \$3.15). Women's and children's low shoes will be in proportion. For the present no men's low shoes are to be manufactured.

Fancy Goods, Harness, and Saddlery—Associations Amalgamate.

In Walsall and Birmingham fancy leather goods makers are doing a flourishing business and have orders on hand which can not be completed before the end of the year. The manufacturers of solid goods are experiencing much difficulty in obtaining material because of the closer control of heavy leather.

In the harness and saddlery trades military work continues to be the predominant feature, although few new contracts have of late been received from the Government, with the result that there has been some slackening up in this branch. Civil work is making better progress in spite of the fact that materials are scarce and difficult to obtain without certificates.

An amalgamation of the leather-trade associations of these districts has been proposed by which the Birmingham Leather Traders' Association and the Walsall Leather Traders' Association will join forces with the National Leather Goods Manufacturers' Association. The first two are primarily associations of harness and saddlery manufacturers, but for the most part the members are also manufacturers of solid and fancy goods. Distributed over the country are some 17 or 18 federations devoting their activities to the interests of the harness and saddlery trade, but hitherto these have not been specially represented in the National Leather Goods Manufacturers' Association.

FISH LANDED AT NEW ENGLAND PORTS DURING OCTOBER.

The fishery products landed at Boston and Gloucester, Mass., and Portland, Me., by American fishing vessels during the month of October, 1917, included 207 steam and sail vessels. These vessels landed at Boston 326 trips, aggregating 10,283,110 pounds, valued at \$639,559; at Gloucester, 105 trips, aggregating 3,431,547 pounds, valued at \$206,207; and at Portland, 160 trips, aggregating 1,962,875 pounds, valued at \$83,094. The total for the three ports during the month amounted to 591 trips, aggregating 15,677,532 pounds of fresh and salted fish, having a value to the fishermen of \$928,851.

CALIFORNIA WINES IN NORWAY.

[H. S. Waterman, temporary clerk in American consulate, Bergen, Oct. 10.]

The Norwegians are essentially drinkers of heavy wines—port, sherry, and madeira—and it is only since the recent prohibition on the import of wines over 12°, Gay Lussac, that the lighter table wines have come into general use. The wines on the market now are the higher-grade Burgundy and Bordeaux wines and champagne, but on account of the French reduction in export they are obtainable only in limited quantities.

In 1914 there was a small stock of California wines in the local market, obtained from a London distributor, and they seem to have met with considerable favor. Distributors here say that cheap, low-grade wines are in very little demand. On account of the limited quantity of French wines obtainable the present is considered an excellent opportunity for the introduction of California wines, at least to the extent of making connections for the large opportunities that will be opened after the war.

Wine Imports—Duties.

Norway's imports of wines during 1914 and 1915 and Bergen's share in the trade are shown below:

Imports.		1914	1915
Into Norway:			
Sparkling wines.....	galls..	28,105	32,048
Other wines in bottles.....	do.	21,066	26,240
Wines in wood under 21 per cent alcohol.....	tons..	4,708	5,655
Into Bergen:			
Wines in bottles.....	galls..	2,915	3,445
Wines in wood.....	tons..	93	392

Sparkling wines pay upon importation into Norway 1.50 crowns per liter (\$1.52 per gallon) under Norwegian tariff No. 725; other wines in bottles, 70 öre per liter (\$0.71 per gallon), tariff No. 726; all wines in wood, 34½ öre per kilo (\$0.042 per pound), tariff No. 727. Sixteen per cent of the total weight is deducted as allowance for the weight of the wood.

Terms of payment are cash against bill of lading. Prices should be quoted f. o. b. New York.

[The names of the principal distributors of wines in Bergen may be procured from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district and co-operative offices by referring to file No. 94632.]

SPIRIT MANUFACTURERS IN SWEDEN AMALGAMATE.

[Vice Consul Arthur E. J. Reilly, Stockholm, Oct. 22.]

The largest undertaking in the spirit industry in Sweden—Reymersholms Old Spirit-Distilling Co.—has recently purchased two important Swedish companies in this business—O. P. Andersson & Co. (Ltd.), of Goteburg, and Neuman's Spirit Co., of Kristianstad. These two companies have previously manufactured together 14 per cent of all the spirit sold in the country, and the Reymersholm Co. 81 per cent. After the fusion, therefore, practically the whole output will be by one company.

FOREIGN COMMERCE OF UNITED STATES FOR SEPTEMBER.

A statement of the foreign trade of the United States for September has just been completed by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, Department of Commerce. The imports and exports by great groups during the month and the 9 months ended September, 1917, are given below:

Groups.	Month of September—		9 months ended September—	
	1917	1916	1917	1916
IMPORTS.				
Crude materials for use in manufacturing.....	\$103,122,958	\$86,314,720	\$891,604,563	\$795,816,288
Foodstuffs in crude condition and food animals.....	26,821,664	22,391,276	290,567,807	179,572,001
Foodstuffs partly or wholly manufactured.....	31,227,326	14,766,299	301,271,098	270,900,241
Manufactures for further use in manufacturing.....	42,301,125	30,499,206	406,618,548	315,544,208
Manufactures ready for consumption.....	29,569,783	28,132,544	290,377,478	254,035,841
Miscellaneous.....	1,163,042	1,935,280	10,355,321	15,606,084
Total imports.....	236,196,898	164,038,614	2,282,794,503	1,831,174,608
EXPORTS.				
Crude materials for use in manufacturing.....	76,439,193	61,825,413	515,333,148	459,114,358
Foodstuffs in crude condition and food animals.....	17,858,517	35,139,545	397,609,927	294,002,878
Foodstuffs partly or wholly manufactured.....	59,137,553	53,638,056	586,191,782	478,968,074
Manufactures for further use in manufacturing.....	100,752,650	91,553,557	957,573,081	645,200,636
Manufactures ready for consumption.....	194,797,948	256,492,902	2,083,106,454	1,962,030,619
Miscellaneous.....	2,822,626	10,473,304	43,793,244	67,099,593
Total domestic exports.....	451,799,487	509,422,777	4,563,739,636	3,906,416,149
Foreign merchandise exported.....	4,206,400	5,501,357	43,637,449	44,009,939
Total exports.....	456,005,947	514,924,134	4,607,377,085	3,950,426,079

Exports of principal items under the heading "Miscellaneous" for September, 1917, were: Horses, \$1,582,730; mules, \$879,706; and seeds, \$335,721; and for 9 months ended September, 1917: Horses, \$28,562,871; mules, \$11,976,344; and seeds, \$3,005,482.

Imports and Exports by Grand Divisions and Countries.

The total values of merchandise imported from and exported to each of the principal countries during September, 1917, and the 9 months ended September, 1917, compared with corresponding periods of the preceding year, follow:

Trade by grand divisions and countries.	Month of September—		9 months ended with September—	
	1917	1916	1917	1916
IMPORTS FROM—				
Grand divisions:				
Europe.....	\$32,091,971	\$41,396,513	\$441,061,128	\$483,895,646
North America.....	76,370,575	42,887,960	678,349,472	500,952,004
South America.....	38,865,946	30,875,636	472,316,638	317,546,424
Asia.....	74,476,575	40,173,250	506,657,870	393,993,434
Oceania.....	8,847,300	5,797,002	38,021,601	80,192,598
Africa.....	5,536,431	2,918,253	61,384,794	64,694,687
Total.....	236,196,898	164,038,614	2,282,794,503	1,831,174,608
Principal countries—				
Austria-Hungary.....	12,120	28,782	64,481	543,808mm
Belgium.....	287	16,766	158,022	871,563mm
France.....	5,044,213	7,323,733	77,030,767	83,156,290mm
Germany.....	1,438	254,522	157,431	5,150,553mm
Italy.....	2,118,509	4,783,421	28,962,264	47,416,087mm

Trade by grand divisions and countries.	Month of September—		9 months ended with September—	
	1917	1916	1917	1916
IMPORTS FROM—continued.				
Principal countries—continued.				
Netherlands.....	\$1,805,659	\$3,242,498	\$17,496,045	\$33,683,450
Norway.....	425,521	374,397	5,576,044	4,430,724
Russia in Europe.....	854,967	720,384	5,247,734	4,278,773
Spain.....	1,898,604	2,373,304	28,877,394	23,454,738
Sweden.....	806,980	1,240,839	16,603,005	10,217,996
Switzerland.....	1,020,748	1,424,480	14,647,227	16,805,998
United Kingdom.....	16,588,342	18,500,559	232,892,569	237,616,455
Canada.....	37,187,871	22,649,345	289,077,365	160,793,865
Mexico.....	13,566,775	7,416,477	98,374,700	77,715,708
Cuba.....	20,723,143	7,932,430	225,957,325	201,585,080
Argentina.....	9,413,821	5,843,962	143,282,163	90,280,945
Brazil.....	10,292,472	10,955,748	116,626,992	90,763,725
Chile.....	9,036,244	6,731,911	105,662,011	63,126,530
China.....	12,452,050	6,257,735	101,664,170	62,625,227
British East Indies.....	21,924,067	15,772,532	191,131,712	159,716,493
Japan.....	26,974,071	16,478,459	181,239,828	131,249,345
Australia and New Zealand.....	3,296,454	1,191,104	19,618,990	51,941,653
Philippine Islands.....	5,313,929	4,202,105	40,000,967	25,044,615
Egypt.....	2,299,230	457,809	27,325,193	25,742,484
EXPORTS TO—				
Grand divisions:				
Europe.....	292,065,787	379,822,793	3,062,100,302	2,759,658,222
North America.....	87,143,651	81,348,802	922,274,058	644,522,794
South America.....	26,544,319	18,808,219	214,010,146	154,258,901
Asia.....	34,259,627	20,335,773	297,507,295	267,952,930
Oceania.....	10,336,114	9,538,141	74,526,818	79,827,045
Africa.....	5,636,449	5,030,406	36,958,460	36,206,187
Total.....	456,005,947	514,924,134	4,607,377,085	3,950,426,079
Principal countries:				
Austria-Hungary.....				61,771
Belgium.....		4,091,452	17,258,557	20,348,317
Denmark.....	1,313,234	4,762,617	32,147,764	41,403,258
France.....	76,662,398	85,433,583	730,414,479	628,461,026
Germany.....			3,275	1,118,281
Greece.....		2,273,018	6,784,048	25,953,968
Italy.....	33,928,899	30,943,265	271,674,608	199,903,068
Netherlands.....	7,029,276	9,972,285	65,427,659	81,000,655
Norway.....	1,805,279	3,780,532	58,337,329	45,929,468
Russia in Europe.....	29,483,818	59,377,651	269,208,884	230,714,456
Spain.....	8,932,800	4,873,790	62,792,008	42,747,423
Sweden.....	103,391	5,067,727	20,727,483	31,736,664
United Kingdom.....	131,282,312	166,889,402	1,489,905,367	1,382,665,377
Canada.....	53,860,425	52,148,637	629,240,131	427,102,449
Central America.....	2,883,018	4,395,981	37,671,311	33,223,120
Mexico.....	9,219,527	5,549,604	75,028,312	37,082,508
Cuba.....	14,310,933	14,917,899	128,117,290	113,090,020
Argentina.....	9,358,921	5,655,597	71,614,528	57,167,024
Brazil.....	5,282,064	3,930,072	45,438,701	34,547,790
Chile.....	4,589,173	3,766,972	37,500,633	23,105,196
China.....	2,961,503	2,286,093	28,247,979	22,500,719
British East Indies.....	3,258,446	2,721,573	29,025,285	21,036,271
Japan.....	14,809,565	6,924,853	108,162,299	71,199,917
Russia in Asia.....	10,300,345	4,343,713	96,749,971	129,508,785
Australia and New Zealand.....	6,232,199	7,291,337	47,732,476	61,865,273
Philippine Islands.....	3,654,595	2,109,135	25,435,747	16,809,283
British Africa.....	4,125,151	2,673,710	27,474,759	23,334,249

PACIFIC COAST TIDE TABLES.

Pacific coast tide tables for 1918 giving data for western North America, eastern Asia, and many island groups have been issued as Serial No. 64, by the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey. These are reprinted from the general tide tables. Copies may be obtained at 10 cents each from the agencies of the survey, a list of which is published in the first number for each month of the Notice to Mariners, which is published weekly by the Bureau of Lighthouses and the Coast and Geodetic Survey.

BERMUDA TO INCREASE ITS OUTPUT OF CORN PRODUCTS.

[Vice Consul S. W. Eells, Hamilton, Nov. 3.]

In a report on the Corn Show held in September the Acting Director of Agriculture says:

The exhibition was held with the objects, first, of stimulating the cultivation of corn and, second, of demonstrating the Colony's ability to grow good corn. That the second object was fulfilled can not be disputed; time will prove to what extent the first object has been secured. During the past year 32,881 bushels of corn, invoiced at £5,869 [\$28,560], and about 3,000 barrels of corn meal, invoiced at £2,426 [\$11,805], were imported. If 25 per cent of our acreage were planted to corn every summer, a yield of 50 bushels per acre would mean a total production of 34,000 bushels. It would seem reasonable to assume that the Colony can with economy grow all, or nearly all, of the corn consumed here.

Last June it was estimated that the yield would be 27,000 bushels, but owing to a fairly wet season the actual crop was only about 25,000 bushels. A large part of this will be lost because the corn was not dried sufficiently before storing and also because of a lack of facilities for proper storing. It is thought that on account of Bermuda's damp climate corn, after being dried, must be kept in airtight bins or receptacles to avoid molding. The Department of Agriculture is aiming to find a way to guard against this.

New Industry Growing in Popularity.

This growing and treatment of corn with a view to supplying Bermuda's needs for fodder and for corn products for human consumption is a new undertaking; but already there are two mills for grinding corn, and five or six silos in which both ears and stalks are stored, and it is expected that there will be more of each installed before next summer. Prior to this year there were no mills and only one silo; farmers grew corn for stock feed but never ground it.

At present the mills (which are privately owned) are charging 2s. (\$0.48) for grinding a barrel of corn on the cob for stock feed and 1s. (\$0.24) for turning a bushel of shelled corn into meal.

In Bermuda corn is planted in March or April, generally between rows of potatoes or onions a few weeks before the winter crop of these vegetables is harvested, and is reaped in August.

Corn that is planted for ensilage next year will be in addition to that grown for grain and meal.

THE USE OF RICE HULLS AS A FUEL.

[Consul Joseph Emerson Haven, Turin, Italy, Oct. 18.]

In view of the situation in Italy as regards fuel, many substances heretofore considered as waste products are being made the subject of experiments with the idea of securing a combination that may be used as a substitute for coal.

Rice cultivation is one of the principal industries of Italy, and particularly in the Turin consular district, the annual Italian rice production being about 660,000 tons. Of this amount, about 100,000 tons is rice hulls. It is estimated that there is at present on hand about 200,000 tons of hulls from the 1915 and 1916 crops which, owing to the embargo on exportation from the Kingdom, could not, as in former years, be sent to Switzerland and Germany as cattle food.

With the object of using these rice hulls as a fuel, the Laboratory of Applied Chemistry of the University of Turin, at the request of

the Experimental Station for Rice Culture at Vercelli, has taken up the question of the heating powers of rice hulls and now reports that 5,462 heat calories are given off during combustion, which average is more than sufficient.

The great drawback in the utilization of rice hulls as a fuel in districts somewhat removed from the centers of production is their bulky character and the scarcity of rolling stock to transport them economically.

Experiments have also been made with rice hulls in combination with different binding agents, but while the resulting briquets gave every satisfaction from the standpoint of heating, yet the initial cost of the various binding agents made their cost too high for practical purposes. The experiments, however, are being continued, and it is hoped that in the near future a briquet can be manufactured that will be satisfactory from an economic standpoint.

AGRICULTURAL EXPOSITION IN GUAYAQUIL.

[Consul General Frederic W. Goding, Guayaquil, Ecuador, Oct. 23.]

The municipal board of Guayaquil recently passed an ordinance providing for an annual agricultural exposition in this city, beginning October 9, 1920. Support has been promised from all parts of the Republic.

The exposition is to comprehend live stock and farming in general, horticulture, floriculture, apiculture, food products, and the prime materials for industrial manufactures. A special building adequate for the purpose is to be erected, funds for which are being arranged. Work will start May 1, 1918.

One important result expected is the compilation of a list of all persons engaged in any pursuit related to agriculture, and of the products raised. When available, the list will be of great value from a commercial standpoint.

It is understood that space will be provided for the exhibits of foreigners. American manufacturers of agricultural implements and kindred articles may address "El Presidente del Concejo Municipal, Guayaquil, Ecuador," for literature and information.

CONSULATE AT PATRAS, GREECE, WANTS CATALOGUES.

The American consulate at Patras, Greece, requests United States firms interested in the markets of Western Greece to send to it their latest catalogues, together with discount or approximate price lists. The consulate addressed direct several hundred American firms under date of November 15, 1916, requesting catalogues, but owing, perhaps, to irregular postal service to Greece about that time only a small number of catalogues was received.

The consulate keeps a reference file of commercial catalogues, with price lists and discounts, for the benefit of the local market and has found it very helpful in promoting American trade in the district. It desires to have this file always representative and up to date. Importers in the Patras district are interested in the following lines, among others: Automobiles, chemicals, clothing, cutlery, druggists' supplies, dry goods and notions, farm implements, furniture, groceries, haberdashery, hardware, kitchen utensils, leather and leather goods, lumber, office supplies, paints and oils, stationery, and vehicles.

LIVE STOCK IN NEW ZEALAND.

[Consul General Alfred A. Winslow, Auckland.]

The matter of conserving the farm stock in New Zealand at this time is receiving much attention, not only on the part of the New Zealand Government but the stock raisers themselves, for fear that the great temptation to sell owing to the high prices may induce many to allow their stock to decrease materially.

New Zealand is essentially a stock-raising country, and it is estimated that the domestic animals in this dominion are worth nearly \$218,000,000, and that the income from this source for 1916 was well over \$145,000,000.

Export returns for last year show that \$60,276,829 was paid for wool and nearly \$34,000,000 for frozen mutton and lamb. In addition there were exports of butter, cheese, tallow, hides, pelts, etc.

The last census of stock in the country shows a small decrease in the number of sheep, and a slight increase in the number of cattle, when there should have been under normal conditions a fairly large increase in both, since a considerable area of newly occupied land has been taken over within the last year or two.

There is sufficient unoccupied land in New Zealand, if put to the best possible use, along with the land now occupied, to practically double the number of sheep and cattle now kept in the country, which would mean about 50,000,000 sheep and 5,000,000 head of cattle. It is expected that this climax may be reached within a few years after the close of the war, when many additional settlers are expected for the land in this country.

MARKET FOR WINDMILLS IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC.

[Consul Arthur McLean, Puerto Plata, Oct. 2.]

There are not more than 12 windmills in use in the Puerto Plata consular district, which has an area of over 10,000 square miles and about 300,000 inhabitants.

At present rainwater is either stored in tanks and used as required, or water is drawn from the streams in buckets.

As nearly the entire population of this district is engaged in agricultural pursuits, and among whom are many prosperous farmers, it would seem that there should be a good opening in this region for American windmills.

This business can not be obtained, however, through catalogues nor correspondence. In order to secure the best results it would be advisable to advertise extensively in Spanish in the local newspapers and send an expert to demonstrate the uses and advantages of windmills. Such a man could work in conjunction with an agent who should be located in Santiago de los Caballeros, the trade center of the northern half of the Dominican Republic. It would be advisable to erect a model windmill in the outskirts of Santiago, which is much frequented by farmers, to be used for demonstration purposes.

The duty on windmills, according to Schedule 892 of the Dominican customs tariff, is 5 per cent ad valorem.

All indications point to the rapid development of this rich and almost unexploited country, and it is worthy the attention of every manufacturer interested in extending his foreign trade.

UNFAVORABLE REPORT ON MYSORE MONAZITE.

[Consul Lucien Memmlinger, Madras, India, Sept. 12.]

The alleged discovery of monazite in Mysore which was reported by a Calcutta publication in its issue of June 5, 1917, has not been shown to be of any value. The same publication, under date of September 6, has an article in which it is pointed out that subsequent investigations failed to reveal any important source of the mineral. The paper, in its second article on the subject, states:

With reference to the discovery of monazite in Mysore, it is understood that the discovery has so far exhibited little concentration and no deposits of any value have been found. A few handfuls of the crystals have been obtained from decomposed pegmatite near the fifth mile on the Bangalore-Kankanhalli Road. The quantity available is small and the amount of thorium in the mineral is only 2½ per cent, while in Travancore it is reported to contain from 6 to 10 per cent. On the western side of the Kolar schists, near the Bowringpet Road, Mr. Louis Stromeyer found a number of pieces of a quartz ore gneiss containing specks of a reddish mineral, which on being tested proved to be monazite or some allied mineral. No notable quantity of either the rock or mineral has, however, been located.

Some licenses have been taken out in the Kadur and Hassan districts and a large number of washings made of the stream sands, some of which were stated to contain thorium. No analyses have been furnished, but a large number of the concentrates from the sands which were examined failed to show any appreciable quantity of monazite. Many river washings have been made from time to time by the officers of the Geological Department, chiefly in the neighborhood of the charnockites of the Mysore district, and occasionally a few grains of monazite have been detected, but nothing of any particular value. Several small pieces and plates of what appears to be samarskite were found associated with the monazite in the decomposed pegmatite near Bangalore.

[A statement of the reported discovery of monazite in Mysore was published in COMMERCE REPORTS for Sept. 6, 1917.]

FORECAST OF CHOSEN'S SOYA-BEAN CROP.

[Vice Consul Raymond S. Curtice, Seoul, Oct. 13.]

According to an official forecast of the soya-bean crop, issued by the Governor General of Chosen in September, this year's crop will amount to 14,548,854 bushels, as against 15,140,997 bushels last year. Exports of beans from Chosen during the eight months ended August 31, 1917, compared with those for the corresponding months of 1916, were:

Articles.	8 months of 1916.		8 months of 1917.	
	Bushels.	Value.	Bushels.	Value.
Beans, soya:				
Japan.....	2,156,933	\$1,226,587	3,625,702	\$2,753,467
China.....	15,959	8,780	98,755	83,743
Other countries.....	21	13		
Total.....	2,172,913	1,235,390	3,724,457	2,837,210
Beans, red or white, small:				
Japan.....	12,784	8,020	106,752	80,535
China.....	113	74	1,500	1,079
Total.....	12,897	8,094	108,252	81,614
Beans, all other.....	13,332	8,510	84,627	51,784

FOREIGN TARIFFS.**ARGENTINA.**

[Boletín Oficial, July 24.]

Dutiable Weight of Cinematograph Films.

In a case recently brought before the Argentine customs tribunal the question was raised as to the basis for the collection of duty on certain cinematograph films imported wrapped in thin paper and placed in tin receptacles. The importer contended that duty should be levied on the weight of the film and the paper wrapper alone. Under the general tariff provisions applicable to cinematograph films duty is to be collected on the weight of the articles together with the respective containers (envases) and wrappers (envolturas), or if only one container is used, upon the gross weight. It was held that the thin paper constituted the wrapper (envoltura), while the tin should be regarded as the single container (envase), and duty was accordingly imposed on the gross weight. A distinction was drawn between the present case and another decided October 27, 1916, in which films were imported in a thin paper wrapping surrounded with heavy paper of double thickness and the whole inclosed in a tin container. It was held in that case that the thin and heavy paper constituted the wrapping and container, respectively, and that the weight of the outer tin container should not be included in computing the duty. The importance of proper packing for films will be understood when it is pointed out that they are subject in Argentina to a duty of \$0.70 per pound, inclusive of the customs surtaxes.

[Boletín Oficial, July 24 and Aug. 1.]

Customs Decisions.

A decision of the Argentine Minister of Finance rendered July 24, 1917, classifies rubber gloves for industrial and household use with the articles not specified in the tariff and therefore dutiable at 25 per cent ad valorem, plus surtaxes of 7 per cent ad valorem, instead of as rubber goods for surgical use under tariff item 2941. By another decision check protectors are also held to be dutiable at 25 per cent ad valorem, plus the surtaxes, as articles not specified. A duty of 5 per cent ad valorem without surtax is applicable to common watches with alarm attachment.

CHILE.

[Diario Oficial, Sept. 21.]

Authorization of Embargo on Metal Scrap.

By a law of September 21, 1917, the President of Chile is authorized to prohibit the exportation of scrap iron, copper, lead, zinc, and alloys thereof, when the interests of the country require such action.

JAPAN.

[Consul General George H. Seidmore, Yokohama, Oct. 5.]

Regulation of Exports.

A series of orders issued by the Minister of Agriculture and Commerce on September 17, 1917, contain regulations governing the exportation of matches, glassware, enameled ironware, and braids, with a view to securing conformity with standards prescribed in detail by

supplementary orders of the same date. In general the regulations issued conform to the proposed measures described in **COMMERCE REPORTS** for August 2, 1917, and prohibit the exportation of articles failing to comply with the standards of the local guilds, of the association of guilds, or of the local authorities. For braid the regulations are to go into effect January 20, 1918, and for the other articles on December 20, 1917.

MEXICO.

[El Economista, Oct. 5.]

Authorized Tariff Modifications.

The authorization requested by the President of Mexico to modify the import and export tariffs without first submitting the proposed changes to the National Congress (see **COMMERCE REPORTS** for Aug. 14, 1917) has been conferred by a law of October 4, 1917. Any changes so made may not extend beyond August 31, 1918, and must apply equally to all persons.

[El Economista, Oct. 11.]

Embargo on Sugar and Molasses.

An unconditional prohibition on the exportation of refined and muscovado sugar, molasses, and brown sugar, specified in item 150 of the Mexican export tariff, until further notice is contained in a decree signed by the President of Mexico on October 10, 1917.

UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA.

[Consul General George H. Murphy, Cape Town, Sept. 4.]

Control of Egg Exports.

Regulations concerning the inspection and control of eggs for exportation from South Africa, adopted under the Agricultural Export Produce Act of 1917, are summarized in the Cape Times for September 4, 1917. In order to be designated as first grade, eggs must weigh not less than 15 pounds per 10 dozen, with no eggs weighing less than $1\frac{1}{2}$ ounces. As second grade will be classed eggs weighing not less than $13\frac{1}{2}$ pounds per 10 dozen, with no individual eggs weighing less than $1\frac{1}{2}$ ounces. Eggs not conforming to these standards may be exported if approved as to quality and freshness provided the cases are marked "Below grade." The exportation of eggs which, in the opinion of the inspector, are unfit, either through lack of quality or freshness or through improper grading and packing, will not be permitted. October 1, 1917, is the date on which the regulations were to go into effect. (Other regulations had previously been adopted, prescribing the standards for various kinds of fruit exported from South Africa.)

OFFICES OF THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE.

DISTRICT OFFICES.

NEW YORK: 734 Customhouse.
BOSTON: 1801 Customhouse.
CHICAGO: 304 Federal Building.
ST. LOUIS: 402 Third National Bank Building.
NEW ORLEANS: 1020 Hibernia Bank Building.
SAN FRANCISCO: 307 Customhouse.
SEATTLE: 648 Henry Building.

COOPERATIVE OFFICES.

CLEVELAND: Chamber of Commerce.
CINCINNATI: Chamber of Commerce.
CINCINNATI: General Freight Agent, Southern Railway, 96 Ingersoll Building.
LOS ANGELES: Chamber of Commerce.
PHILADELPHIA: Chamber of Commerce.
CHATTANOOGA: South American Agent, Southern Railway System.
PORTLAND, OREG.: Chamber of Commerce.
DAYTON: Greater Dayton Association.

PHILIPPINE TRADE IN MOTOR VEHICLES AND PARTS.

[A. F. Boomer, correspondent, Manila, Sept. 13.]

Few Philippine imports have had so good a market during the last five or six years as that enjoyed by motor vehicles. With but two exceptions there has been an increase each year since 1911 in the number of automobiles imported. Separate figures are not available for motorcycles. Motor trucks are classed as automobiles in the figures of the customs house. It is only within the last four years that tires have been segregated from other parts and supplies. There has been a good increase in the importation of supplies and parts, especially in tires. The total value of the tires imported during 1916 was nearly \$500,000.

Countries Supplying Motor Vehicles and Parts.

The following table shows the number and value of automobiles imported each year from and including the fiscal year 1911 to and including the year 1916, together with the value of parts imported for the same period, and the value of tires imported for a part of the period:

Country of origin.	Number of machines.	Value of machines.	Value of parts.	Value of tires.	Country of origin.	Number of machines.	Value of machines.	Value of parts.	Value of tires.
<i>Year ending June 30, 1911.</i>					<i>July to December, 1913—Con.</i>				
United States.....	359	\$213,811	\$53,830		Germany.....	3	\$1,919	\$155	\$1,134
United Kingdom.....	8	7,019	3,698		Spain.....	1	1,133	20	
Germany.....			133		Switzerland.....			23	
France.....	59	61,469	12,918		Total.....	387	234,773	23,497	65,639
Belgium.....	1	736	17		<i>January to December, 1914.</i>				
Switzerland.....	1	453			United States.....	499	259,915	31,479	74,961
French East Indies.....	1	100			United Kingdom.....	2	1,080	1,091	6,244
Spain.....			274		Belgium.....			83	
China.....			73		France.....	79	83,266	6,412	32,914
British East Indies.....			355		Germany.....	6	5,344	684	669
Total.....	429	283,588	71,298		Spain.....			5	
<i>Year ending June 30, 1912.</i>					Switzerland.....	2	2,075	72	127
United States.....	291	211,812	56,273		Italy.....	1	253	51	
United Kingdom.....	5	3,646	1,744		Total.....	589	351,633	39,794	114,968
Germany.....	1	273	272		<i>January to December, 1915.</i>				
France.....	50	49,785	30,865		United States.....	608	560,846	66,903	291,234
Switzerland.....	2	2,128	104		United Kingdom.....	2	3,906	266	795
Total.....	319	267,654	89,198		France.....	10	17,503	9,212	24,117
<i>Year ending June 30, 1913.</i>					Spain.....			8	
United States.....	544	355,397	31,865		Switzerland.....			18	
United Kingdom.....	10	12,765	841		Sweden.....			8	
Germany.....			541		Total.....	620	582,255	76,415	316,146
France.....	69	73,567	11,756		<i>January to December, 1916.</i>				
Other countries.....	1	1,226	165		United States.....	986	726,091	148,150	472,129
Total.....	624	443,355	45,208		United Kingdom.....			10	
<i>July to December, 1913.</i>					France.....			1,156	4,656
United States.....	351	202,440	17,445	\$36,611	Switzerland.....			118	148
United Kingdom.....	1	878	1,577	1,148	Sweden.....			28	
Belgium.....	2	1,066			Japan.....			86	
France.....	29	26,739	4,470	26,746	Total.....	986	726,091	149,548	476,983

The figures available for the first six months of 1917 show a slight decrease in the total value of the automobiles, parts, and tires imported for that period compared with the first six months of 1916. The indications are, however, that the current year will show no falling off in the imports of automobiles over 1916, provided shipping conditions do not interfere.

At the close of 1916 there were in actual operation in the Philippine Islands 3,013 automobiles, 392 motor trucks, and 870 motorcycles. Besides these there were 1,630 machines undergoing repairs or not in operation for some other reason. The greater part of the latter number were automobiles.

Of the total number, 1,481 automobiles, 248 motor trucks, and 323 motorcycles were being operated in the city of Manila. The Province of Occidental Negros, one of the sugar Provinces, came next on the list with 234 automobiles, 3 trucks, and 34 motorcycles. Other Provinces surpassed this one in the number of motor trucks operated. Leyte has 29, Laguna and Iloilo each has 17, Benguet 16, and Ambos Camarines has 14. Iloilo has 159 automobiles, Rizal Province 148, and Cebu 125. It is probable that fully 400 more have been put in operation throughout the islands since the beginning of 1917, although exact data on this are not available.

Number of Automobiles, Motor Trucks, and Motorcycles in Each Province.

The following table shows the number of motor vehicles in operation for each Province at the close of 1916:

Province.	Auto- mobiles.	Trucks.	Motor- cycles.	Province.	Auto- mobiles.	Trucks.	Motor- cycles.
	Number.	Number.	Number.		Number.	Number.	Number.
Agusan.....	79	9	27	Ianao.....	6	9	1
Albay.....	70	14	23	Mindoro.....	9	3	2
Ambos Camarines..	53	14	23	Misamis.....	9	3	9
Antique.....	1	2	5	Mount Province...	27	1	11
Bataan.....	42	15	20	Nueva Ecija.....	234	3	34
Batangas.....	43	9	7	Nueva Visaya.....	19	3	17
Benguet.....	20	1	32	Occidental Negros..	71	1	25
Bohol.....	90	1	4	Oriental Negros....	35	1	30
Bulacan.....	9	1	4	Pampanga.....	1,481	248	323
Cagayan.....	30	21	22	Pangasinan.....	148	4	33
Capiz.....	14	5	42	Manila.....	7	6	9
Cavite.....	125	1	1	Rizal.....	29	3	2
Cebu.....	4	17	46	Samar.....	11	3	2
Cotabato.....	159	24	13	Sorsogon.....	5	1	6
Davao.....	24	52	16	Sulu.....	58	1	3
Iloilo.....	52	3	3	Surigao.....	1	1	4
Iloos Norte.....	46	17	22	Tarlac.....	44	1	21
Iloos Sur.....	18	5	5	Tayabas.....			
Isabela.....	38	29	11	Zambales.....			
Laguna.....				Zamboanga.....			
La Union.....				Total.....	3,013	392	870
Leyte.....							

Facilities for Repairs—Selling Automobiles on Installment Plan.

Garages for the repairing of automobiles and other motor vehicles have multiplied greatly within the last few years, particularly in Manila, consequently comparatively fewer parts of machines are now imported. Many of the parts that frequently were imported from the factory are now manufactured locally in the repair shops. Considerable valuable repair-shop machinery and tools have been imported within recent years.

The trend in the Philippine market has been toward small, lower-priced machines. Filipinos are the principal buyers, and they prefer light cars. Very few of the larger cars are now imported.

Most of the establishments that formerly kept horses and vehicles for hire now maintain motor cars for rent by the hour. The prices charged vary from \$1.50 to \$5 per hour. The automobile operating from stands on the streets for hire has entirely driven off the two-horse vehicles which formerly operated on the streets. These street automobiles are frequently owned by the driver and have no overhead charges to pay such as machines operated from garages or livery stables must bear. The horse-drawn carromata and carretela (small two-wheeled vehicles) continue to do most of the passenger carrying on the streets of Manila, not done by the street railway.

Many local dealers sell machines on the installment plan. A certain amount is required to be paid down and promissory notes given for the subsequent payments secured by mortgage on the machine. Further precautions are taken by having the machine insured for enough to cover the unpaid balance. Practically all dealers report their credit business fairly satisfactory.

The rapid growth of the automobile trade in the Philippines has been due, primarily, to the excellent roads in almost every section of the country, the prosperous condition of the islands, and in a large measure, to an energetic group of salesmen who have built up the trade throughout the islands.

[An extensive report on the Philippine market for motor vehicles was published in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for Mar. 18, 1916. A list of the leading automobile dealers and garages in Manila can be obtained at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district or cooperative offices by referring to file No. 1298.]

PANAMA DOCK CHARGES UNDER NEW FISCAL CODE.

[Consul General Alban G. Snyder, Panama City, Oct. 8.]

Under the new fiscal code, which became effective on October 1, the dock charges for all docks of the Republic, with the exception of those in this city, are: Each mule, horse, etc., 25 cents; each head of cattle, 10 cents; each pig, goat, etc., $7\frac{1}{2}$ cents; each fowl, 1 cent; each hide, 1 cent; each 46 kilos of skins, 25 cents; each 46 kilos of coffee, cocoa, or rubber, 10 cents; each 46 kilos of corn, rice, or beans, $2\frac{1}{2}$ cents; each 46 kilos of potatoes, cabbage, fruits, etc., 5 cents; each 46 kilos of beef, 15 cents; each 46 kilos of eggs or cheese, 10 cents; each 46 kilos of sweet honey, 5 cents; each 46 kilos of any cargo not already mentioned, 5 cents; each 46 kilos of ivory nuts, shell, 5 cents; each barrel of liquor, capacity 10 to 15 demijohns, 25 cents; each empty barrel, 5 cents; each demijohn of liquor, 5 cents; each 1,000 square feet of lumber, 50 cents; each 1,000 brick, tile, etc., 25 cents; each ton of lumber, ordinary, 25 cents; each 100 coconuts, 10 cents; all vehicles, each, 25 cents; each piece of furniture, any size, $25\frac{1}{2}$ cents; wharfage for each sailing vessel, \$1.50; each steamer, \$2.50.

No wharfage will be charged for the baggage of passengers.

Hydroelectric Company Organized at Oporto.

Consul General W. L. Lowrie reports from Lisbon, under date of October 15, that a company has been organized at Oporto, Portugal, to develop the water power of the northern part of the country. The directors are Antonio Alexandre Santo and Dr. Alvaro Pinto de Magalhães.

GOVERNMENT FUR SALES AT ST. LOUIS.

The public auction of fur seal and fox skins from the Pribilof Islands that was held at St. Louis in October by Funsten Bros. & Co., the agents of the Department of Commerce, was the fourth sale at which dressed, dyed, and machined fur-seal skins had been offered by the United States Government. The sealskin returns for these four sales are reported by the United States Bureau of Fisheries as follows:

Date.	Skins.	Gross proceeds.	Average price.
Sept. 20, 1916.....	1, 00	\$74, 530 00	\$39. 22
Jan. 20, 1917.....	2 00	93, 8 00	46. 81
Apr. 18, 1917.....	1, 50	68, 40. 50	45. 60
Oct. 8, 1917.....	3, 239	107, 47. 00	33. 17
Total.....	8, 639	344, 195. 50	39. 84

The sealskins that were offered at the October sale were taken in 1916 in food killings for the natives. They numbered 3,239, and had been dressed, dyed, and machined before sale, so that they were ready to be made into garments. Many of the skins were not of the best quality, because of their being taken throughout the year to meet the natives' needs without reference to the condition of the fur. This fact, together with the small offering, kept prices down. The lot of skins that brought the best price, \$45 each, consisted of 50 of the trade category known as "middlings and smalls." All of the skins in this class, numbering 250, brought more than \$41 each, the average being \$42.50.

Increased Prices for Fox Skins.

The fox skins taken by the natives during the winter of 1916-17 numbered 567 blues and 39 whites. Their quality was good, and the prices received averaged 25 per cent higher than last year. The blue foxes brought \$34,653.50, an average of \$61.11 per skin, and the white foxes \$1,027, or \$26.33 per skin. Seven lots of blue foxes sold for more than \$100 per skin, all being of the dark phase. The best lot, consisting of four skins listed as "extra fine dark," brought \$142 each.

Other features of the sale were a lot of 251 dressed, dyed, and machined fur-seal skins taken by the natives of the northwest coast, which brought an average price of \$30.48; and 1,848 raw fur-seal skins from Lobos Island, Uruguay, which were offered by the Uruguayan Government and brought from \$2 to \$14 each, in addition to which there were 18 dressed skins which sold for \$8.50 each and 7 dressed, dyed, and machined skins which brought \$19 each. This is said to have been the first time that Lobos Island fur-seal skins were sold in the American market.

Consul General Brittain reports from Sydney, Australia, that an American company is about to erect a factory in that city for the manufacture of chewing gum. It will employ 40 to 50 hands and will use American machinery.

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the Bureau and its district and cooperative offices. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and state opportunity number. The Bureau does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases. Symbols: * Reported by American consular officers; † Reported by commercial attachés and commercial agents; ‡ Direct inquiries received by the Bureau.

In considering the following "opportunities" special regard should be had to the laws and regulations governing export licenses and trading with the enemy.

Agricultural machinery-----	25862	Machinery-----	25858, 25862
Bottles-----	25858	Paints and varnishes-----	25863
Buttons-----	25863	Polishing cloths-----	25859
Chamois skins-----	25859	Preserves-----	25863
Cutlery-----	25867	Springs-----	25861
Fiber-----	25859	Straw-----	25859
Furniture, folding-----	25866	Sundries-----	25864
General agency-----	25860	Tacks and nails-----	25865
Groceries-----	25864	Thread-----	25859
Hardware-----	25863, 25867	Tools-----	25867
Hooks and eyes-----	25859	Wines-----	25863

25858.†—A manufacturer in Paraguay desires to receive catalogues, prices, and full information in regard to machinery for making small paper boxes for use of druggists and machinery for making paper bags. Small machines with a limited capacity are desired. He also desires quotations on 100,000 small glass perfume bottles as per sample, which may be examined at the Bureau or its District Offices. (Refer to file No. 1288.) Reference. Correspondence should be in Spanish.

25859.†—A firm in Argentina, with purchasing agents in the United States, desires to purchase chamois skins, polishing cloths, thread, hooks and eyes, brush fiber, straw for chairs, and other products, a complete list of which may be had on application to the Bureau or its district offices, including full information as to quality, quantity, etc. References. All business is to be transacted through their agents in the United States.

25860.*—An agency is desired by a man in Brazil for the sale of all kinds of manufactured goods. He mentions no particular line. Quotations should be made f. o. b. New York. Payment will be made by 90-day sight draft against documents. Correspondence should be in Portuguese. References.

25861.*—A commission agent in Spain wishes to secure an agency for the sale of wagon and carriage springs. Correspondence should be in Spanish. References.

25862.*—An agency is desired by a man in Spain for the sale of pumping, hauling, and agricultural machinery. Payment will be made against shipping documents on receipt of goods. Correspondence should be in Spanish or French. References.

25863.*—A man in Brazil would like to secure an agency for the sale of preserves, wines, buttons, paints and varnishes, hardware, etc. Payment will be made by 90-day sight draft attached to shipping documents. Correspondence may be in English. References.

25864.*—A firm in Canada desires to purchase or secure an agency for the sale of groceries and druggists and confectioners' sundries. Quotations should be made f. o. b. point of shipment. Correspondence may be in English. Cash will be paid. Reference.

25865.*—A company in France is in the market for various kinds of upholsterers' tacks and nails. Samples and price lists should be submitted. Payment will be made by cash against documents. Correspondence should be in French. Reference.

25866.*—An agency is desired by a commission agent in Spain for the sale of folding furniture for camping. Correspondence should be in Spanish. References.

25867.*—A man in France desires to secure an agency for the sale of hardware, tools, and cutlery. Correspondence may be in English. Reference.

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SPANISH EXPORT DECREES.

[Cablegram from American consul general, Barcelona, Nov. 16.]

Spanish Government by royal orders published November 14 authorizes the exportation of linseed cake upon payment of export tax of 16 cents per 100 pounds, so long as domestic supply is not endangered and prices do not rise. [It is assumed that the export tax is 2 pesetas per 100 kilos (kilo=2.2 pounds).]

Export is prohibited of hemp, raw or hackled, and hemp yarn.

ADDITIONAL BRITISH IMPORT PROHIBITIONS.

[Cablegram from American consul general, London, Nov. 17.]

From November 16 the importation of the following goods is prohibited: Abrasive wheels; binder and reaper twine; brass rod and brass wire; cycles other than motor cycles; electric meters; electric motors over one-half horsepower; electric hand lamps and torches; magnetos; measuring tapes and rules of all descriptions, including Vernier's micrometers; pens, penholders, pencils, and all other stationery of which the importation is not already prohibited; vegetables in brine.

[A "general license" for the importation of wire, not including wide goods was announced in COMMERCE REPORTS for Apr. 20. The revocation of the general licenses for importation of a large number of articles, including metal penholders and pencil holders and metal pocket lighters, was noted in the issue of May 25. Applications for the admission of prohibited goods must be addressed by the British importer to the Controller of Import Restrictions, London.]

DECREASED EXPORTS FROM BRADFORD TO UNITED STATES.

[Vice Consul Hamilton C. Claiborne, Bradford, England, Nov. 1.]

The declared exports from the Bradford consular district to the United States during the month of October, 1917, amounted to \$856,040, against \$1,285,997 in the corresponding month of last year,

a decrease of \$379,957, and a decline of \$127,351 in comparison with the total for September of this year. In fact, the total for October, 1917, is the smallest return of exports from this consular district to the United States for any month since September, 1913, which was the month prior to the operation of the principal schedules of the tariff act of 1913.

The principal decreases last month, as against the corresponding period of last year are cotton cloths, principally mercerized, \$106,134; sheepskins, \$35,433; silk yarns, \$41,244; mohair and alpaca cloths, \$53,507; worsted cloths, \$36,976; and woolen cloths, \$34,917. The most noteworthy increases are wool noils and wastes, \$26,887, and wool dress goods (coat linings), \$20,629.

CENTRAL EXPORT BUREAU FOR THE NETHERLANDS.

[Paul L. Edwards, clerk to commercial attaché, The Hague, Oct. 8.]

It is expected that before the first of November the Netherlands Central Export Bureau will be established and will commence operations. The general purposes of this bureau are (1) to simplify the export control, (2) to afford a possible means of equitable taxation, (3) to coordinate Holland's export policy with its domestic distribution policy, (4) to enable Holland better to bargain with foreign countries for those importations which it needs, and (5) to assist in financing Dutch exports.

Although the Central Export Bureau may be dissolved at the request of the Minister of Agriculture, Industry, and Commerce, and he is, therefore, responsible in a measure for its acts, the negotiations and agreements made with foreign Governments will be unofficial so far as Holland is concerned. It has been asked whether the Central Export Bureau would take over the agreements which the Dutch Agricultural Export Bureau (a private association which directs the destination of Dutch agricultural exports) now has with the belligerents. Such a step could be taken only with the approval of both England and Germany, which are parties to the present contracts of the Agricultural Export Bureau, but neither of those countries has yet indicated such approval.

Of the 5,000,000 florins (\$2,010,000 at normal exchange) capital stock of the Netherlands Export Co. (which is to carry on the business operations of the Central Export Bureau) over 4,000,000 florins has already been subscribed by the various chambers of commerce, agricultural and horticultural organizations, the different communes, etc., and it is announced that the remainder is to be subscribed by the Netherlands Trading Co.

Exports from San Luis Potosi District to United States.

The principal article of export to the United States from the San Luis Potosi district (Mexico) during the first nine months of 1917 was ixtle fiber, according to invoices certified at the American consulate. These exports were valued at \$377,038. Other important items were: Dry cattle hides, \$199,917; goat skins, \$142,100; crude india rubber, \$149,920; beans, \$132,541; quicksilver, \$62,099; and anti-mony (matte), \$88,473.

CAR SHORTAGE HAMPERS NEW BRUNSWICK TRADE.

[Consul E. Verne Richardson, Moncton, New Brunswick, Canada, Nov. 7.]

The existence of a serious shortage of railway freight cars is being felt by all classes of Moncton shippers having business connections across the border. Of late the railways have been giving preference to shipments of perishables—notably potatoes—and cars for commodities of this character have been made available in fair quantities, although not without the assistance of other railway administrations in Canada than that of the Canadian Government. Invoices representing over 30 cars of potatoes have been certified at the Moncton consulate for shipment to the United States since the beginning of the current quarter; only one such invoice was certified during the corresponding period of 1916.

Shippers of lumber, plaster, and other heavy lines are at the moment practically without facilities for moving their stocks, and the resultant interruption of business will lead to much pecuniary loss if conditions do not soon improve. The manager of a large plaster-manufacturing concern near Moncton states that he has over 170 carload orders ready for shipment for which he can get no cars, nor does the local railway management hold out any hope of early relief. The result, in this instance, can only be a closing down of the plant. A similar story is told by another shipper, who is holding up 60 carloads for the same reason.

Canadian Cars in United States—Effect on Cost of Living.

Small lumber shippers at many points in the Moncton district are suffering no less acutely. "I have not been able to get a single car from the railway since October 16," said one of these men to-day. Reports are in local circulation regarding an attempt now being made in official quarters to get back from the United States as many as possible of the Canadian cars in use there. It is said that the excess of Canadian cars at present on American tracks over American cars on Canadian tracks is 20,000. The Canadian Government railways have instructed their agents at all stations to offer none of their cars for destinations beyond their own system. Similar action by the operating department of the Canadian Pacific Co. is reported.

As a factor in increasing the cost of living in this district the present insufficiency of freight cars is of no small importance. Merchants, finding it practically impossible to get deliveries by freight, are resorting more and more to the facilities offered by the express companies. The extra costs of transportation are added to the selling price, and the ultimate consumer pays.

CEMENT DRAINTILE AND CONCRETE IN ALKALI SOILS.

A report on the durability of cement drintile and concrete in alkali soils, containing the results of a third year's tests, conducted by representatives of the United States Bureau of Standards of the Department of Commerce, in cooperation with the Department of Agriculture, the United States Reclamation Service, and the Portland Cement Association has been published by the Bureau of Standards as Technologic Paper No. 95. The book contains nearly 150 pages and has a large number of halftones and other illustrations. It may be obtained at 35 cents per copy from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C.

MINERAL PRODUCTION IN SOUTH AFRICA.

[Consul John P. Bray, Johannesburg.]

The total value of the mineral production of the Union of South Africa for the six months ended June 30, 1917, as shown by the official statistics of the Department of Mines, was \$125,589,454. There were 4,568,855 ounces of fine gold, valued at \$94,445,421, produced in the Union, of which the Transvaal accounted for 4,568,762 fine ounces, of a value of \$94,443,494. There were 1,432,436 carats of diamonds produced in the Union, valued at \$18,562,505, of which 136,595 carats, valued at \$2,294,287, were produced in the Orange Free State, and 491,410 carats, of a value of \$4,214,199, in the Transvaal.

The output of other minerals in the Union during the six months was as follows: Coal, 5,107,645 short tons, valued at the pit's mouth at \$7,808,421; copper, 10,046 tons, \$2,793,171; tin, 1,552 tons, \$981,622; antimony, 475 tons, \$45,750; asbestos, 3,004 tons, \$221,392; corundum, 720,908 tons, \$23,325; soda (crude), 2,957 tons, \$59,162; lime, 44,304 tons, \$318,882; silver in gold bullion, 478,808 ounces, valued at \$279,264.

Mining Claims—Labor Employed.

On June 30, 1917, there were 102,303 mining claims held in the Province of the Transvaal, of which 15,211 pertained to the Johannesburg mining area, 24,068 to the Boksburg district, and 22,625 to the Pietersburg district, the others being accounted for in the unmentioned districts.

The total number of native laborers (colored) employed on the large gold mines was 191,075, which is a decrease of more than 15,000 as compared with either July or December of 1916. For the past nine months white labor has fluctuated around 23,000. On the other hand, the diamond mines show an increase of 6,000 native laborers over the corresponding period of 1916, or a total of 18,792. Likewise, the collieries employed more native laborers than was the case for the same period in 1916, when the number of laborers amounted to approximately 29,000.

Output for July.

The output of minerals for the Union of South Africa for the month of July, 1917, amounted to \$18,316,697, of which the Transvaal alone contributed \$17,302,280. The Union produced 756,982 fine ounces of gold, equal to \$15,648,011, and of this the Transvaal accounted for 756,842 fine ounces, valued at \$15,645,125. The coal production for the Union amounted to 874,880 tons of 2,000 pounds each, worth \$1,338,185 at the pit's mouth, while there were 565,024 tons, valued at \$660,286, mined in the Transvaal Province. The copper output of the Union was 1,343 tons, valued at \$336,970, of which 814 tons were mined in the Transvaal, of a value of \$203,171. Of the 220 tons of tin produced in the Union the output for the Transvaal was 218 tons, worth \$157,548, while out of a total valuation of \$824,851 of all the other minerals produced in the Union, the Transvaal's share amounted to \$636,148.

Output of Southern Rhodesia for Six Months.

The total production of minerals in southern Rhodesia for the first six months of the present calendar year amounted to \$11,304,775.

Gold is the most valuable of the mining products, and of this precious metal there were 426,130 fine ounces produced, equivalent to \$8,684,129. Copper, which ranks next in value, amounted to 1,929 tons, worth \$1,230,057. The production of chrome ore and asbestos—now becoming of greater importance as sources of wealth—amounted to \$565,021 and \$452,794, respectively, and of coal, which is fifth in rank, there were produced during this period 252,266 tons, valued at \$301,309.

Other minerals of lesser importance were wolframite and antimony, the value of the outputs having been \$1,752 and \$1,606, respectively. There were also 253 carats of diamonds produced, worth \$4,998.

SALT PONDS OF TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS.

[Consul W. F. Doty, Nassau, Bahamas, Oct. 24.]

The Assistant British Commissioner for the Turks and Caicos Islands has made formal publication of the report of the committee appointed to inquire into the conditions of the salt industry of those islands. According to this report, the export of salt from the Turks and Caicos Islands in the calendar year 1910 was 1,249,668 bushels; in 1914 it reached 1,836,114 bushels; in 1915 the quantity was 1,757,681 bushels. The committee is of opinion that the output could be doubled if proper measures were to be adopted.

It was decided in 1910 to refund a certain portion of the Government royalty on salt to the proprietors of salt ponds, in order that permanent improvements looking toward the amelioration of many obvious defects might be made and the salt industry established on a solid basis. The grants by way of refund were in the main judiciously expended, but in numerous instances the proprietors of small allotments did not conform to the spirit or the letter of the refund ordinance. The committee recommends the immediate appointment of an inspector to supervise such expenditure, cooperating with the local salt boards and endeavoring tactfully to bring about the working of all concerned for the mutual good.

Other Recommendations of the Committee.

The committee recommends that an agent travel abroad to arrange for the sale of salt, as it has frequently happened that low prices have been realized through lack of connection with the best markets.

It is estimated that salt exposed to the air wastes 1 per cent during 1 inch of rainfall. About one-sixth of the salt output can now be sheltered in sheds, but it is urged that measures be taken immediately to provide sheds for the entire quantity stored in the common deposit to avoid further heavy financial losses.

The small salt proprietor particularly suffers from the lack of banking facilities, and it is suggested that the whole industry would benefit very greatly were a bank to carry these proprietors and to assist in the regulation of prices to avoid too serious competition.

The recent arrangement by the Government of Newfoundland to take salt in very large quantities from the Turks and Caicos Islands has given new impetus to salt raking in the dependency.

SALES OF DRIED FRUIT IN SOUTH AMERICA.

A bulletin on "South American markets for dried fruits" has been issued by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce. The extent of the European trade in these products in the various countries is shown, and the particular opportunities that exist for American producers are described.

The failure to sell important quantities of American dried fruits in South America is due in part to the native's preference for dried fruits that may readily be eaten out of hand without further preparation. The predominance of European dried fruits (prunes, raisins, and figs) is especially marked in Brazil, and only slightly less so in Argentina and Uruguay. Home-produced fruits practically displaced all others in Chile, with the United States ranking second only to the United Kingdom in the small trade in imported fruits.

Increased Purchases in the United States.

Peru is the only country among those considered in this report in which California fruits outrank those from all other sources. Chilean fruits practically monopolize the markets of Bolivia. During the last year or so there has been a decided tendency in South America to buy in the United States certain lines of fruits that formerly were purchased almost exclusively from Europe, and it is thought that proper attention to the requirements of the market will make permanent at least a part of this trade. The report points out the shortcomings in American methods of competing with European countries in the South American markets and offers constructive suggestions for the future.

Copies of this bulletin, Special Agents Series No. 148, may be obtained at the nominal price of 5 cents from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C., or from the district or cooperative offices of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

RAILROAD SERVICE IN NORTHERN CHIHUAHUA.

[Consul Edward A. Dow, Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua, Mexico, Nov. 7.]

For some time the Mexican Northwestern Railroad has been running a mixed train weekly from this city, which is opposite El Paso, Tex., south to Pearson, which is about 160 miles south of here. The train leaves, subject to various changes made on short notice, each Tuesday morning. The trip is made in about 14 hours. From Pearson another train goes to Madera, 105 miles farther, the time consumed being about 7 hours. Shipments to the interior over these lines include for the most part food and other supplies to mining camps and ranches. The latter are exporting, through this port, mostly to the United States, lumber, cattle, hay, alfalfa, and ores.

In addition to the above service, freight trains run at irregular hours, according to shipments received by the company. It is stated that the trains are being conducted almost exclusively by Mexicans, most of the American railway employees having left some time ago for the United States.

The Mexican Central Railway has quite regular service from this city to Chihuahua City.

FOREIGN TARIFFS.**PANAMA.**

[Consul General Alban Snyder, Panama, Oct. 5.]

Import Duty on Soap, Candles, and Bay Rum.

According to a recent Executive decree, soap, candles, and bay rum are to continue to be admitted at the rate of 15 per cent ad valorem upon importation into Panama. The decree was issued with a view to harmonizing certain tariff provisions with the Taft Agreement. The decree also provides that the stamp duties prescribed by law No. 24, of January 21, 1915, are to continue in effect, and permits the importation of scented soap and perfumes without the payment of the stamp tax at the time of importation, provided the stamps are affixed before the articles are offered for sale.

[In accordance with the terms of the Taft Agreement of December, 1904, as modified in January, 1911, the rate of duty on articles not specified in the tariff of Panama, which include soap, candles, and bay rum, can not be raised above 15 per cent ad valorem; the specific rates prescribed for those articles by the law of Feb. 24, 1915, as well as the ad valorem rate of 35 per cent for scented soap, could not therefore go into effect without the consent of the United States.]

PERU.

[Boletín de las Aduanas, July 7 and 13, and Sept. 7.]

Customs Decisions.

In a case recently brought before the Peruvian customs tribunal the former classification of floor paint was repealed and it was held to be dutiable at the general rate of 30 per cent ad valorem applicable to articles not specified in the tariff. By another decision electric storage batteries are classified as electrical apparatus not otherwise specified, under tariff item 2499, the rate of duty being 0.40 sol per kilo, or \$9.71 per 100 pounds inclusive of the 10 per cent surtax collected at the most important ports. Electric motors for sewing machines are held to be dutiable at 10 per cent ad valorem, as machines for industrial use under tariff item 2279. Another decision classifies corn flakes breakfast food under the tariff item covering flour made from materials not otherwise specified and maizena, with a duty of 0.10 sol per kilo, or \$2.43 per 100 pounds including the surtax. This classification would probably also be applied to other cereal breakfast foods.

[El Peruano, Aug. 31.]

Export Duty on Rice.

In order to assure a sufficient supply of rice for the domestic needs of the country at reasonable prices, an export duty of 0.025 sol per kilo, or \$0.55 per 100 pounds, has been imposed by a Peruvian decree of August 29, 1917. The exportation of rice was prohibited by an order of June 10, 1916, but this was modified shortly thereafter, and apparently the prohibition was later entirely withdrawn.

PHILIPPINE ISLANDS.

[Official Gazette, Aug. 8.]

Patent Medicine Regulations.

The law of the Philippine Islands regarding the importation and sale of patent and proprietary medicines, adopted February 27, 1917,

and amended by an act of March 9, 1917, has been interpreted and certain provisions defined by administrative regulations of the Philippine Health Service. The original law prohibits the importation and sale of any simple or compounded pharmaceutical preparation unless the quantitative and qualitative formula appears on the label of the bottle or immediate container. The regulations interpret this provision to apply to "any substance or preparation except those used exclusively for cosmetic purposes." The formula must be in English and attached to each separate package or part thereof. The formula must also appear on any advertising matter distributed or published, and the use of statements that are false or misleading in any respect is prohibited and may also result in the exclusion of the preparation advertised. Before any patent or proprietary medicine may be offered for sale it must be analyzed and favorably reported on by the Bureau of Science.

[The full text of the regulations is on file in the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce and will be loaned to those interested upon application.]

VENEZUELA.

[Consul Emil Sauer, Maracaibo, Oct. 4 and 6.]

Validity of Inland Shipping Documents.

Firms in the United States importing goods from houses located in the interior of Venezuela and Colombia are advised to be cautious about advancing money on the strength of the inland shipping documents alone. A statement on the invoice or bill of lading from the shipper in the interior to the forwarder at the port of exportation that the goods are intended for transshipment gives the foreign importer no control whatever over the goods, and money should not be advanced upon such documents unless accompanied by the ocean bill of lading. Foreign firms do not generally deal directly with the exporters in the interior of Venezuela and Colombia, but limit their transactions to responsible houses in the principal ports. With some of the large reputable firms it is the practice to draw against open account with New York houses without submitting documents for exports with their drafts.

Financing of Shipments.

Instructions given by Venezuelan importers regarding the presentation and collection of drafts for goods ordered abroad are often misunderstood by the foreign exporters. Frequently requests that drafts to cover merchandise be sent to a particular bank are taken to mean that the draft should be drawn on the bank named, whereas it was only intended that the draft should be presented for collection through that bank. The wording of this request varies with different importers, the most usual forms being: "You may draw on us at the ——— Bank," "Kindly draw on us at ——— Bank," and "We will pay your draft at the ——— Bank," or the equivalent.

The reasons for making such requests are quite evident. The banks sometimes charge a higher rate of exchange in collecting drafts on persons who are not regular customers than from their regular clients. It may happen also that the importer has an understanding with a certain bank for the payment of the draft in installments or at a later date or for securing other credit facilities.

It is not to be understood that a request that drafts be sent to a particular bank for collection implies that the bank has been instructed to make payment upon presentation of the drafts. Generally if a Maracaibo bank has agreed to accept drafts for a given amount against a local importer it will notify the foreign exporter or a New York bank. The request does not even necessarily imply that the importer has an account or an understanding with the bank, and the exporter may find that he has no security except the honesty and the financial responsibility of the drawee.

It should be borne in mind that owing to the prohibition on "to order" shipments the possession of the shipping documents gives no control over the merchandise covered by them unless the holder is also the consignee named therein. As stated in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for August 31 and November 8, 1917, the consignee can clear the goods without the shipping documents and without having paid the draft.

Where an importer is not known, inquiry should first be made regarding his integrity and financial responsibility, and the goods should not be shipped until paid for or until the draft covering the goods has been accepted by an American or Venezuelan bank or by a responsible commission house. The largest business houses of Maracaibo generally maintain cash balances or credit with New York banks or commission houses, and when ordering merchandise from the United States they instruct these banks or commission houses to honor the drafts covering goods ordered by them.

AUSTRIAN AGRICULTURAL-MACHINERY COMBINE.

[British (Government) Board of Trade Journal, Nov. 1.]

In the *Wiener Zeitung* of October 9 it is reported that the Austrian Minister of Trade, in conjunction with the Minister of Agriculture, has made an order, dated October 5, under which all undertakings manufacturing agricultural machines or parts of them in Austria are to be combined, with the designation of "Economic Combine of Manufacturers of Agricultural Machinery in Austria," which will have its head office in Vienna. The objects of the combine are to supervise factory arrangements and the number and employment of workmen and to carry out all necessary inquiries as to stocks, production, and sales; to assist in the acquisition and distribution of raw materials, the settling of prices and conditions of sale; to consult with the Central Offices on the placing of orders; to advise and co-operate in all questions relating to the control of production, import and export, conditions of work, and transition economy.

The members of the combine are divided into three groups: Manufacturers of machines for working the land, manufacturers of harvesting machinery, and manufacturers of machines for the preparation of fodder and utilization of milk, fruit, and wine. The combine is under State supervision, which is exercised by Government commissaries nominated by the ministries concerned. Decisions of the committee of management or the directorate of the combine are subject to the approval of the Minister of Trade.

VENEZUELAN PRODUCTION OF BALATA.

[Consul Homer Brett, La Gualra, Oct. 4.]

Balata, a gum similar to gutta-percha, is largely used in the manufacture of belting. It is obtained from the sap of *Mimusops globosa*, a tree reaching 100 feet or more in height, which is widely distributed over eastern Venezuela and the Guianas. The latex is secreted between the bark and the wood of the tree; it contains nearly equal proportions of resin and gutta, the latter being identical with true gutta-percha.

The word "balata" is of Carib origin and is used by the natives of British, Dutch, and French Guiana as well as by those of Venezuela, but it is applied solely to the gum, the tree being known as the purguo. On the coast between Puerto Cabello and Cape Codera the tree is called the nisperillo.

The Trees are Felled to Obtain Their Sap.

The commercial exploitation of this tree in Venezuela began near Maturin, where by 1894 it had already been exterminated. Sap collecting was then begun near San Felix in the State of Bolivar and, as the tree became scarcer, the area of operations was extended eastward to the boundary of British Guiana and southward along the Orinoco and its tributaries to all accessible regions. In Venezuela the custom is to cut down the trees in order to obtain the sap, and the industry has thus been progressively destroying itself. A governmental commission estimates that in the last 10 years alone the 10,000 collectors have destroyed 36,000,000 purguo trees and that the direct loss to the nation from this cause amounts to more than half a billion dollars. In spite of the fact that in British and Dutch Guiana felling is prohibited and that regular production of latex is obtained by tappings that do not kill the trees, the merchants of Ciudad Bolivar have opposed any governmental prohibition of the cutting down of trees, arguing that in whatever manner the tree is cut it will die and that there is no better method of obtaining the latex than felling.

The purguo is of slow growth, the period required for a tree to reach the productive stage being more than 10 years and full development not being attained for 30 years or more. The fruits, being agreeable in taste, are nearly all eaten by wild animals, so that natural reproduction is slow. The trees usually grow at the foot of hills where the soil is fertile and moist but not waterlogged, always scattered among other species and never densely. Land on which there are 16 purguos to the acre is considered rich.

Method of Collecting the Latex.

The balata harvest begins in May and ends in August, but in years of continuous rains work may be carried on at all times except when the tree is in flower, the sap being then so poor as not to be worth gathering. The collector leaves his camp at 5 a. m., fells the first tree he finds, and makes four cuts on each side of the fallen trunk, to each of which he attaches a tin receptacle to catch the flow of latex. Having worked two trees he returns to his camp about noon carrying the product of his toil in a bag waterproofed with the same sap. The contents of the bag are emptied into a larger receptacle. On Saturday all the collection of the entire week is coagulated by cook-

ing, and afterwards the gum is pressed in wooden molds into slabs weighing from 50 to 100 pounds.

Under present methods the average production per tree is 3 gallons of latex, producing 18 pounds of balata worth from 14 to 40 cents a pound. By tapping properly it is estimated that each tree would produce latex worth \$2 each year for 30 years or more.

Exports and Prices.

For a number of years balata, ranking immediately after coffee and cocoa, was third in importance among Venezuelan exports. The amount and value of the shipments (stated in metric tons of 2,204.6 pounds and in American currency) from 1905 to 1916 were:

Year.	Tons.	Value.	Year.	Tons.	Value.
1905.....	1,461	\$755,400	1911.....	2,222	\$2,449,070
1906.....	1,280	863,830	1912.....	1,698	1,767,260
1907.....	1,545	1,128,595	1913.....	2,219	2,032,870
1908.....	1,465	1,149,600	1914.....	894	698,625
1909.....	1,630	1,283,575	1915.....	1,069	789,325
1910.....	1,903	2,193,800	1916 (six months).....	287	220,215

The war has caused great changes in the course of the trade in Venezuelan balata. During 1913 Germany led among the buyers of the gum on the Ciudad Bolivar market, France ranked second, the United States third, and Great Britain fourth. In 1914 the United States rose to first place, followed by France, Germany, and Great Britain in the order named. In 1915 Great Britain occupied first place, the United States was second, and France was a poor third, Germany disappearing from the list. In January-June, 1916, Great Britain and the United States again ranked first and second, respectively, and France and Germany were both missing from the list.

In 1906 the price of balata in Ciudad Bolivar reached the then high mark of 35 cents a pound; the average price is between 14 and 21 cents. The best price in 1915 was 23.7 cents, but the latest official tariff of exportable products issued by the Ciudad Bolivar custom-house fixes the official valuation of balata at 5 bolivares per kilo, or 43.8 cents per pound.

SWEDISH WOOD PULP FIRMS AMALGAMATE.

[Vice Consul Arthur E. J. Reilly, Stockholm, Oct. 22.]

The wood pulp firm of Billeruds AB., in Varmland, a concern which of late years has absorbed a number of similar undertakings, has purchased Sälboda AB. and Jössefors AB., which hold the majority of the shares in Charlottenbergs AB. Jössefors has a share capital of \$670,000 and Charlottenberg of \$160,000. The two companies own productive forest land to the extent of 40,000 acres. Jössefors has wood-pulp mills with a yearly output of 33,000 tons of wet mechanical pulp. The capital of the Sälboda Co. is \$402,000. The company owns 22,000 acres of productive forest land, pulp mills, sulphite works, and paper mills with an output of 4,500 tons of paper and 5,000 tons of sulphite pulp. Billerud reported for 1916 a net profit of \$894,770 on a capital of \$1,407,000, and raised its dividend from 10 to 15 per cent.

CHINA'S MONETARY AND EXCHANGE SITUATION.

[Consul General George E. Anderson, Hongkong, Sept. 24.]

As a result of the high price of silver large quantities of the metal were shipped out of China in the last six months of 1916 and the early months of 1917. On the whole it is doubtful if the situation created by this outflow of the basis of China's monetary system has changed materially during the current year, though the volume of the movement has been lessened and a reaction has set in.

When silver started to soar in June, 1916, wealthy Chinese commenced to speculate in gold, merchants purchased goods for future delivery, and, in short, in every way the country drew upon its gold credits abroad and then began to export silver to build them up again. The movement of silver abroad was stimulated by the prevailing rates of exchange, which were below the corresponding value of silver bullion abroad, and in some cases was particularly stimulated for investment in war loans at especially favorable rates. All these circumstances combined to cause a net export of silver to the value of more than \$22,500,000 gold (28,678,126 taels). While there was a net import of gold of about \$9,400,000 (11,800,849 taels), gold in China is not available as a monetary medium.

Export and Import of Silver and Gold.

The result of the general movement of silver was a diminution of the monetary circulation, best illustrated by the fall in the amount of silver in Shanghai banks from nearly 40,000,000 taels to 23,000,000 taels, with a similar fall in the stock of silver dollars. The movement of silver between Hongkong and Shanghai practically balanced, but Shanghai drew heavily on all South China for its stock of silver. The result was tight money, the restriction of credits (already restricted because of the war) a fall in the comparative value of silver securities, and particularly a deficiency in the volume of subsidiary coins.

These conditions have been felt through the whole of the current year and in some ways have been accentuated since the middle of the year, especially in South China. As a matter of fact, conditions became such some time ago that the provincial government prohibited the further export of silver from Canton, allowing travelers to carry with them not to exceed \$50 local currency in coin. The customs returns up to August 31 show a total import of 2,688,530 taels and total export of 1,499,747 taels, giving a favorable balance of 1,188,783 taels. The export of silver from Hongkong has been prohibited by law during the year.

Silver and gold have been coming into China during the year. The stock of all metals now in Shanghai is probably not more than \$10,000,000 below what it was at the time the rise in silver began, and this margin will in all likelihood be made up before the year is over. However, this balance is in Shanghai and not in the Provinces where it is needed, and in South China and in the Provinces generally tight money conditions continue to prevail. The wholesale melting of copper coins, which has been the subject of a special report from this office [see *COMMERCE REPORTS* for Dec. 5, 1916], has accentuated the trouble.

Effect on Gold Exchange and Foreign Remittances.

Another feature of the general monetary situation in Hongkong and South China is the extraordinary exchange value of gold, which has resulted from the prohibition of exports of the metal from various warring nations, and particularly from the United States and Japan. Current exchange-bureau rates in Hongkong to-day are \$5 in American paper for \$4 American gold coin—a premium of 25 per cent for the metal over its equivalent in a monetary medium equally current at par in the United States or over corresponding bank exchange. With such conditions obtaining in money based on a gold standard and having a powerful government back of it, what the conditions are as to free metals—silver and subsidiary coins and copper as well as gold—between each other and between paper currencies can be imagined. Sharp fluctuations occur daily all over China; exchange between different commercial centers in the country is difficult, and at times all but impossible; practically all lines of internal trade are greatly affected, while, of course, the export of Chinese produce generally at current rates of exchange is carried on only in goods which are now in overwhelming demand at high prices in the United States and Europe—high prices, however, that do not benefit the producers in China.

Another effect of present high exchange of silver and of the current monetary conditions in China has been an immense reduction in remittances of Chinese abroad to relatives and dependents and for investment in China. These remittances in normal years run about \$40,000,000 gold into the Hongkong field from the United States, Canada, and South America, with immense amounts also into the Swatow and Amoy districts from Chinese in the Straits Settlements and the East Indies. Because of the great loss by exchange all these remittances are being reduced to a minimum, and in every way and everywhere Chinese and others are slow to turn their gold into silver at such unheard-of rates. The buying power of the people is greatly reduced, and it is the very class of people—these Chinese “remittance men”—which buys most heavily of foreign goods.

Situation Better than Expected.

The depressed value of various foreign moneys, particularly the Russian ruble, is greatly felt, one result being the export of silver to Vladivostok to take its place.

On the whole, though, the general monetary situation in China, and particularly in South China, during the closing months of the current year is considerably better than might have been expected. The continued rise in the value of silver offers increasing difficulties to trade and finance; but, on the other hand, most of these difficulties are being discounted, and, while the prospects for the future do not promise much help for trade, it may safely be said that they might be worse. Much import trade in South China can not reasonably be expected until general trade conditions improve, and this improvement will probably not come under the abnormal exchange rates now prevailing. Improvement in exports can not be expected in the face of low prices in silver for gold-bought goods. Only raw materials and food products which must be had at any price will move freely out of China under present conditions.

TRANSPORTATION AGENCIES URGED TO COOPERATE.

Resolutions have been adopted by the Council of National Defense urging the representatives of all transportation agencies to cooperate with each other as fully as possible during the war. Such cooperation is considered essential because the increasing demands for transportation throughout the country which are being produced by war conditions will tax to the utmost the resources of all these agencies. The resolutions are:

Whereas on April 7, 1917, the Council of National Defense took the following action:

Resolved, That Commissioner Willard be requested to call upon the railroads to so organize their business as to lead to the greatest expedition in the movement of freight"; and

Whereas the railroads responded promptly and effectively to this request; and

Whereas the increasing demands for transportation throughout the country due to conditions created by the war will tax to the utmost the resources of all available transportation agencies; therefore be it

Resolved, That the chairman of the committee on transportation of the advisory commission be requested to urge the representatives of all transportation agencies to cooperate with each other as fully as possible during the continuance of the war in order that the most effective use may be made of all such agencies.

MADRAS EXHIBITION OF INDIAN ARTS AND INDUSTRIES.

[Consul Lucien Memminger, Madras, India, Sept. 25.]

Under the auspices of the local government an exhibition of Indian arts and industries is to be held in Madras Christmas week. The objects of the exhibition are thus described in a circular from the committee in charge:

In view of the shortage of shipping and the restrictions imposed on exports from the United Kingdom, it has been decided to hold an exhibition in Madras in the cold weather of 1917-18. The exhibition will be organized on more or less the same lines as the exhibition which the Women's Branch of the Bombay Presidency War and Relief Fund purposes to hold in Bombay in November next, but the scope of the exhibition will be somewhat wider.

The special purposes of the exhibition will be to encourage the production and distribution of articles which are or can be made in India and which can take the place of articles hitherto mainly imported from abroad. But while this purpose will be kept chiefly in view, the exhibition will also be open to the arts and industries of India, and it is hoped that the exhibition will serve not only to advertise existing Indian substitutes for imported articles and to stimulate the production of new substitutes, but also to obtain a wider market for the artistic and industrial products of India generally.

MARKET FOR SUGAR MACHINERY IN JAMAICA.

[Consul C. L. Latham, Kingston, Nov. 3.]

A central sugar factory of 10,000 tons capacity is to be erected in the parish of St. Catherine, Jamaica. Those connected with the project are prominent merchants of Kingston, and large owners of fruit and sugar plantations. One of the members left for the United States on Saturday last, and may be addressed at his firm's New York office. It is believed that American manufacturers of sugar-making machinery might with profit arrange to get in touch with him while in New York.

[The names of those interested in the project and the New York address referred to can be obtained at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or the district or cooperative offices by referring to file No. 94853.]

PROPOSALS FOR GOVERNMENT SUPPLIES AND CONSTRUCTION.

[Correspondence should be direct with the offices named, and specifications and other information can usually be obtained at the points where the goods are to be delivered or the work is to be performed. In cases where the time limit is too short to permit firms to submit tenders, they should ask to be placed on the mailing lists of such offices to receive notices calling for future supplies or work of a similar nature.]

Silverware, No. 4917.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Field Medical Supply Depot, United States Army, 21 M Street NE., Washington, D. C., until November 28, 1917, for 235,000 table forks, 235,000 table knives, 235,000 dessert spoons, and 3,000 teaspoons.

Wharf construction, No. 4918.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Navy Department, Coast Guard Headquarters, Washington, D. C., until December 17, 1917, for constructing a wharf and boathouse at Station No. 212, Santa Rosa Island, Fla.

Panama Canal supplies, No. 4919.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the General Purchasing Officer, the Panama Canal, Washington, D. C., until December 10, 1917, for furnishing, by steamer, free of all charges, on dock at either Colon (Atlantic port) or Port of Ancon (Balboa, Canal Zone) (Pacific port), Isthmus of Panama, the following named articles: Refrigerating apparatus, electric freight elevators, meat drags, meat track, track scales, track rollers, ice crusher, ice elevator, refrigerator doors, cork board, and granulated cork. Circular No. 1184.

Coal, No. 4920.—Sealed proposals will be received by the Lighthouse Inspector, Tompkinsville, N. Y., until November 26, 1917, for 125 tons of bituminous coal.

Subsistence stores, No. 4921.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the Depot Quartermaster, second floor, American Bank Building, Kansas City, Mo., until November 24, 1917, for delivery on or before December 25, 1917, as required at Fort Leavenworth, Kans., potatoes, onions, butter, oleo-margarine, bacon, cheese, and compressed yeast.

Electric elevator, No. 4922.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Bureau of Yards and Docks, Navy Department, Washington, D. C., until December 10, 1917, for furnishing one electric elevator of 1,000 pounds capacity for the gun shop, navy yard, Washington, D. C. Refer to Specifications No. 2695.

Turkeys, No. 4923.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the Depot Quartermaster, second floor, American Bank Building, Kansas City, Mo., until November 22, 1917, for furnishing 5,000 pounds of fresh turkey for delivery November 28, 1917, at Fort Leavenworth, Kans.

Garage construction, No. 4924.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Bureau of Yards and Docks, Navy Department, Washington, D. C., until December 10, 1917, for the construction of a garage at the Naval Training Station, Newport, R. I. Refer to Specifications No. 2688.

Gasoline tanks, No. 4925.—Sealed proposals will be received at the General Depot of the Quartermaster Corps, 3615 Iron Street, Chicago, Ill., until November 26, 1917, for furnishing and delivering f. o. b. place of manufacture, 90 gasoline tanks for auto trucks.

Piping and accessories, No. 4926.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Bureau of Yards and Docks, Navy Department, Washington, D. C., until December 10, 1917, for furnishing and installing a piping tunnel, piping, valves, fitting, hydrants, and accessories for a complete system, hot water, compressed air, Delaware River water, fresh water, and fuel-oil distributing systems at the navy yard, Philadelphia, Pa. Refer to Specifications No. 2694.

OFFICES OF THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE.**DISTRICT OFFICES.**

NEW YORK: 724 Customhouse.
BOSTON: 1801 Customhouse.
CHICAGO: 504 Federal Building.
ST. LOUIS: 402 Third National Bank Building.
NEW ORLEANS: 1020 Hibernia Bank Building.
SAN FRANCISCO: 807 Customhouse.
SEATTLE: 848 Henry Building.

COOPERATIVE OFFICES.

CLEVELAND: Chamber of Commerce.
CINCINNATI: Chamber of Commerce.
CINCINNATI: General Freight Agent, Southern Railway, 96 Ingalls Building.
LOS ANGELES: Chamber of Commerce.
PHILADELPHIA: Chamber of Commerce.
CHATTANOOGA: South American Agent, Southern Railway System.
PORTLAND, OREG.: Chamber of Commerce.
DAYTON: Greater Dayton Association.

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the Bureau and its district and cooperative offices. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and state opportunity number. The Bureau does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases. Symbols: * Reported by American consular officers; † Reported by commercial attachés and commercial agents; ‡ Direct inquiries received by the Bureau.

In considering the following "opportunities" special regard should be had to the laws and regulations governing export licenses and trading with the enemy.

Agricultural implements.....	25871	Leather.....	25873
Auto lamps.....	25875	Machinery.....	25869, 25871, 25876
Bottles, milk.....	25877	Motor-car accessories.....	25870
Cars, railway.....	25872	Novelties.....	25874
Chemical products.....	25878	Rails.....	25871
Cotton goods.....	25868	Railway machinery and supplies.....	25872
Dairy equipment.....	25877	Soap.....	25873
Household goods.....	25870	Tools.....	25870
Jewelry.....	25874	Voiles.....	25868

25868.†—A man in Venezuela desires to secure agencies for the sale of low-priced fancy cotton "drills" (fabric made of colored yarn), 24 inches wide; and voiles, fancy or single color, costing between 12 or 16 cents per yard. A sample of the voile similar to the kind desired may be examined at the Bureau of its district offices. (Refer to Miscellaneous Exhibit No. 195.) He desires to get white voiles and dye them himself, as the duty on colored voiles is very high. References.

25869.*—An agency is desired by a man in France for the sale of all kinds of machinery for making silk and cotton cloth to be used in the manufacture of gloves. Correspondence may be in English. Reference.

25870.†—A firm in France wishes to represent American manufacturers and exporters of small tools, motor-car accessories, household goods, agricultural implements and machinery, and tools.

25871.*—A man in the Dominican Republic desires to purchase lightweight portable rails 16 feet long. Cash will be paid. Correspondence should be in Spanish. Reference.

25872.*—An agency is desired by a commission agent in Spain for the sale of railroad material, cars, railroad machinery, and iron rails. Correspondence should be in Spanish. References.

25873.†—A firm in England with a branch in Egypt is in the market for boot and shoe leather and household soap. Reference.

25874.*—A merchant in Uruguay wishes to secure an agency for the sale of all kinds of jewelry, novelties, etc. Quotations should be made f. o. b. New York, not including commissions. Payment will be made against shipping documents. Correspondence should be in Spanish. References.

25875.*—A man in Spain desires to purchase and secure an agency for the sale of electric lamps and other kinds of lamps for automobiles. Catalogues and price lists should be submitted. Payment will be made against shipping documents on receipt of goods. Correspondence may be in English. References.

25876.†—A man in France wishes to be placed in communication with American manufacturers and exporters of complete machinery and equipment for a factory worked by electric power, for making canned, preserved, and evaporated fruits, vegetables, jams, jellies, etc. Catalogues and price lists should be submitted.

25877.*—A merchant in the Dominican Republic desires to buy dairy equipment and glass milk bottles. Quotations should be made f. o. b. New York. Cash will be paid. Correspondence should be in Spanish. References.

25878.*—An agency is desired by a man in Spain for the sale of chemical products. Correspondence should be in Spanish or French. References.

PRINCETON COMMERCE REPORTS



DAILY CONSULAR AND TRADE REPORTS
ISSUED DAILY BY THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

For sale by the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C., at \$2.50 per year



No. 273 Washington, D. C., Wednesday, November 21 1917

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CANADIAN EXPORT EMBARGO ON IRON AND STEEL.

A more complete embargo on the exportation of iron and steel products is established by a Canadian order in council of November 15, published as Customs Memorandum No. 2138B. The following articles are placed under prohibition of exportation to all destinations abroad other than the United Kingdom, British possessions and protectorates: Pig iron, steel ingots, billets, blooms, bars, and slabs, iron and steel plates, iron and steel shapes (comprising beams, channels, angles, tees, and zeels), iron and steel fabricated for structural work and shipbuilding.

Earlier embargo lists have included hematite pig iron, iron and steel plates, and iron and steel fabricated for structural work and shipbuilding, all of which were prohibited to be exported to foreign countries in Europe and on the Mediterranean and Black Seas other than France, Russia, Italy, Spain, and Portugal.

Notices in COMMERCE REPORTS for September 7 and 19 dealt with the prohibitions affecting cast scrap iron and steel rails respectively.

MEXICAN TAXES ON ALCOHOL AND SPIRITUOUS LIQUOR.

[Consul William W. Canada, Vera Cruz, Oct. 31.]

An order of the Government of the State of Vera Cruz, dated October 11, 1917, provides that factories manufacturing alcohol and spirituous liquor (aguardiente) shall pay to the State 5 centavos for every liter produced.

In addition to this State production tax, the municipalities impose a tax of 2½ centavos and there is a Federal tax of 60 per cent of the sum of these, or 4½ centavos, not to mention a stamp tax of 40 per cent of the value of the invoice when the alcohol or liquor is sold.

Alcohol that formerly sold at 20 centavos a liter now sells for 80 centavos (about 40 cents per 0.26 gallon).

REVISED BRITISH PRICES FOR WOOL AND TOPS.

[Vice Consul Hamilton C. Claiborne, Bradford, Oct. 30.]

The Government Wool Department has announced a new schedule of prices for wool and tops for civilian consumption. These prices will remain in force for four months from December 1, 1917. The prices for tops follow:

Kind.	Current prices.	Revised prices.	Kind.	Current prices.	Revised prices.
32's, prepared.....	\$0.59		50's, carded.....	\$0.85	\$0.97
36's, prepared.....	.61	\$0.67	56's, carded.....	1.05	1.12
40's, prepared.....	.63	.69	58's, carded.....	1.14	1.26
44's, prepared.....	.65	.73	60's, carded.....	1.30	1.40
46's, prepared.....	.69		60's, super.....	1.34	1.42
48's, prepared.....	.73		64's, ordinary.....	1.38	1.46
50's, prepared.....	.79		64's, warp.....	1.40	1.50
44's, carded.....	.67	.75	70's, ordinary.....	1.40	1.50
46's, carded.....	.69	.79	70's, warp.....	1.42	1.56
48's, carded.....	.73	.85	80's, ordinary.....	1.46	1.62

The revised prices for woolen wools, clean-scoured basis, 16 per cent regain, follows:

Quality.	Superior grades.	Average grades.	Quality.	Superior grades.	Average grades.
36's.....	\$0.67	\$0.63	60's.....	\$1.34	\$1.28
40's.....	.69	.65	60's, sup. r.....	1.40	1.34
44's.....	.75	.71	64's.....	1.40	1.34
46's.....	.79	.75	64's, warp.....	1.42	1.36
48's.....	.87	.83	70's.....	1.42	1.36
50's.....	.97	.91	70's, warp.....	1.16	1.40
56's.....	1.07	1.01	80's.....	1.52	1.46
58's.....	1.22	1.16			

Bellies and pieces in proportion.

In this schedule no provision is made for very superior wool, very inferior wool, or for locks and crutchings. All prices are net cash in 14 days.

TEN MONTHS' EXPORTS FROM LONDON TO UNITED STATES.

[Consul General Robert L. Skinner, London, England, Nov. 1.]

The total value of exports from London to the United States during the 10 months ending October, 1917, aggregated \$115,390,471, against \$133,740,783 for the same period in 1916, a decrease of about \$18,060,000. The principal articles comprised in these figures were:

Articles.	January-October, 1916.	January-October, 1917.	Articles.	January-October, 1916.	January-October, 1917.
Rubber.....	\$31,610,629	\$39,770,603	Furs.....	\$5,065,007	\$5,424,870
Precious stones.....	15,609,466	15,435,592	Tea.....	4,436,808	747,058
Tin.....	8,852,856	9,396,001	Indigo.....	2,658,864	1,197,101
Art.....	7,310,174	4,464,560	Wool.....	1,328,282	929,047
Hides.....	5,601,637	2,834,372			

The total for October, 1917, reached \$6,536,711 (compared with \$13,064,451 in 1916), an increase on the previous month of slightly over \$700,000. Precious stones accounted for more than 33 per cent of the month's total, aggregating \$2,217,108, against \$1,260,615 in September; rubber declined to \$319,017; tin reached \$535,741; furs, \$337,043, a gain of 50 per cent; art, \$191,682; hides, \$192,742; and indigo, \$72,263. There were no exports of tea or wool in October.

TERMS OF PAYMENT FOR SWEDISH EXPORTS.

[Vice Consul Arthur E. J. Relly, Stockholm, Oct. 12.]

In the opinion of prominent bankers and financiers, Swedish commercial credits in foreign countries—arising out of large shipments abroad that have been only partly compensated by imports of merchandise—have now become unwieldy, and measures should be taken looking to the control of or at least a uniformity of action in regard to the granting of further credits by Swedish exporters. As a first step in this direction a financial advisory board has been appointed, with Dr. Victor Moll, governor of the Sveriges Riksbank, as chairman.

After discussions and after having consulted the Minister of Finances, the board of the Sveriges Riksbank has drawn up the following rules and has asked the adherence thereto of all banks and other financial institutions, enterprises, firms, and merchants engaged, either directly or indirectly, in foreign trade:

(1) The sale of goods to foreign countries or the allowance of credit for the direct or indirect facilitation of such sale should only be effected against payment in Swedish crowns in advance or against shipping documents. Should exception from this rule be considered desirable, the case should be submitted to the financial advisory board.

(2) The question of allowance of credit to foreign countries involving no sale of merchandise should be submitted to the financial advisory board and made dependent upon its decision.

(3) Banks, bankers, and other institutions and firms lending money should observe the suggestions given above not only when granting credits that will have a direct influence on the foreign relations, but also when allowing internal credits that will indirectly facilitate transactions with foreign countries. The intimate knowledge of the business of their clients will as a rule make it possible for the credit-granting parties to find out the purpose of the facilities demanded.

(4) But even if the observance of the directions is in the first place binding for those who lend money by profession, it does not mean that the advice should be neglected by such enterprises, firms, and private business men who, without granting credits by profession, are able to allow foreign credits direct or indirect. It is desirable therefore that banks and bankers should impart these guiding directions to those of their clients who may be interested.

SLUMP IN THE ANTIMONY BOOM IN CHINA.

[Consul General Thomas Sammons, Shanghai, Oct. 17.]

Prior to the present war China had contributed largely to the supply of antimony, and the Chinese, considering the exceptional demand that would be created for this mineral for use in the manufacture of ammunition, proceeded to the further development and extension of production here. For a time this mineral was in prime demand, and the Chinese were able to dispose of all their output at satisfactory profits. Much of this mineral was accumulated, it is understood, by speculators in the hope of making future sales at increased profits.

But these speculators and dealers, it is reported, failed to take into consideration the impetus that would be given to the antimony industry in other parts of the world through this increased demand and the large prices being paid. When large shipments from Bolivia and Spain began to arrive in the markets prices began to fall, and continued steadily to decline during the year 1916, with the result that these speculators suffered heavy losses, and many Chinese mines and works had to discontinue operations.

UPHEAVAL IN SOUTH CHINA KNITTING-YARN TRADE.

[Consul General George E. Anderson, Hongkong, Sept. 20.]

There has been an upheaval in the market in knitting yarns and cotton yarns generally in South China—a trade in which American manufacturers were much interested until the past year—resulting in the closing down of some 220 knitting factories in South China because of a lack of supplies of knitting yarn at living prices. Up to about two years ago American and British knitting yarns dominated this field, which, by reason of the continued and steady development of the hosiery and knit-underwear industry, was becoming one of very material importance. Up to that time the United States furnished about 80 per cent of the yarn supply. Then Japanese spinning mills commenced to make a specialty of fine-count yarns, and during the season of 1916 they secured practical control of the Hongkong market. [See COMMERCE REPORTS for Mar. 14, 1917.]

Some small portion of the supplies of the Hongkong and South China factories continued to come from the United States, perhaps 15 per cent; but American yarns were imported for especially fine trade only, and the sales diminished from month to month until at the beginning of the current season in Hongkong less than 10 per cent of the supplies were imported from the United States. Japanese mills had secured the trade by using low-priced Chinese and Indian cotton carried to Japan in subsidized steamships at freight rates fixed by the Japanese Government and exporting the yarn made therefrom to Hongkong and other consuming fields under similar favorable freight conditions. The Japanese have successfully supplied all these markets with fine yarns up to a 64 count.

Japanese Dominate Trade—Speculation.

In the knitting trade the Japanese now have over 90 per cent of the total yarn imports. There is still being imported from England a small quantity of best-quality mercerized Nos. 60/2 and 62/2 yarns, which are needed for knitting especially high-grade singlets and socks. Japanese yarns are selling in Hongkong at 64 cents Hongkong currency (49½ cents gold) per pound for No. 30/1, 55 cents (42½ cents gold) for No. 20/1, and 45 cents (34½ cents gold) for No. 12/1. Japanese yarns Nos. 20/1 and 30/1 are used in place of Nos. 24/1 and 26/1 American yarn, as Japanese mills do not turn out Nos. 24/1 and 26/1 except in very small quantities.

The trade had proceeded in a normal course until, several months ago, large cotton-speculating interests in Japan conceived the idea that with freight rates what they now are, the demand for cotton in the United States and Europe what it now is, and with the advantages they had in Government-controlled freight rates and in almost a monopoly of the yarn trade in some lines in this part of the world it might be possible for them to secure control and fix the price of all cotton yarn in this field. Powerful syndicates started buying yarn of all grades, but especially of the fine counts, several months ago and began to force up prices. Japanese newspapers report that prices were forced up to 520 yen, or \$260 gold, per bale of 400 pounds of yarn on the Osaka Cotton Exchange, reaching that figure by advances of \$15 to \$25 gold a day.

Collapse of Movement.

The situation became such that about six weeks ago the exchange closed its doors for several days pending a readjustment. Prices at the reopening started at 480 yen, or \$240 gold, per bale, then commenced to slump, and soon reached the 300-yen, or \$150 gold point. Gradually then prices fell to around 250 yen, or \$125, per bale, where they have since remained. Of course, there has been immense loss to the Japanese and Chinese speculators who forced up the price of yarn with the idea of disposing of their stocks at inflated prices.

The exact reason for the collapse of the movement does not appear in its entirety, but one cause lies in the course adopted by the small knitting factories in South China; when prices went to such unheard-of points they simply shut down and bought no more yarn. The few factories that had supplies of yarn on hand were able to keep going, but those which operated on a hand-to-mouth basis quit work. The Hongkong factories, on the whole, were able to keep going without much trouble, for nearly all of them were well stocked.

The price of yarn in Hongkong advanced to as high as 80 cents local currency per pound for No. 12 count—at exchange then current about 58 cents gold per pound. The price for this yarn to-day is 45 cents local currency, or at present exchange about $3\frac{1}{2}$ cents gold, per pound, as already stated. At this latter rate the Hongkong factories have bought up all available stocks here and all they can get hold of elsewhere. The result is that the smaller factories are unable to secure supplies at current prices, and since they can not or will not go much higher they are simply shutting down and ceasing operations for the time being.

Outlook—Local Yarn Consumption.

It is problematical whether American yarn can come in this field at the present time under present conditions. Prices for yarn have been ranging, normally, about 10 per cent in local currency above those of last year, which means, exchange and all considered, that prices in gold are actually about 50 per cent over what they were a year ago.

Apparently the South China field generally is taking about 4,000,000 pounds of these knitting yarns a year, the eight Hongkong factories placing their consumption at about 2,500,000 pounds. There has been a steady development in the volume of these imports, and the current year would have witnessed a very large increase in consumption but for this speculation in Japan and general freight and cotton conditions in the United States.

The Hongkong knitting factories have developed a large local trade not only because of the growing demand for knitted garments among the Chinese, but also because of the constant and marked improvement in the quality of their output and the increasing difficulty of securing similar goods from the United States and Europe. Considerable quantities of the Hongkong output now go to the Philippines and Australia.

Billerndsaktiebolat is the name of a new corporation in Stockholm, Sweden, for spinning and weaving fabrics from paper. The capital stock is \$1,340,000.

VEGETABLE-OIL INDUSTRY IN SÃO PAULO.

[Consul Charles L. Hoover, São Paulo, Brazil, Oct. 10.]

Of the industries which have been developed as a result of the war, none has had a more striking growth in the São Paulo district than the manufacture of vegetable oils, and as a result this State, which formerly imported large quantities of such oils, is now equipped not only to supply its own requirements of most oils but is beginning to export in quantities that will increase as the extensions of the oil mills now planned are carried out.

The most notable increase has been in the production of cottonseed oil. The establishment of this industry here indicates not only that the United States will lose this market, but that the São Paulo mills will compete in other South American markets where North American oil has been supreme up to the present time. The manufacture of cottonseed oil was begun here about two years ago by one mill, which produced oil suitable for culinary purposes and for the manufacture of soap. This mill passed through an experimental stage, owing to the fact that the owners had not secured expert help to select the machinery or to run the mill. Its difficulties have now been satisfactorily solved so far as the mill itself is concerned, but some difficulty has been encountered in obtaining good milling seed.

Local Production and Imports of Cottonseed Oil.

Plenty of cotton is raised in the State of São Paulo, but some of the fields are remote from gins and the unbaled cotton is frequently exposed to heavy rains before being ginned so that the seeds absorb much moisture. Perhaps not so much damage is done to the seed before ginning as afterwards, for the industry is so new that the planters have not yet learned to protect properly seed that formerly was merely so much waste. Consequently, the seed is generally permitted to lie in unprotected piles until it begins to mold. This condition is not helped by the long delays in transit which the seed has frequently to suffer. But the farmers are rapidly learning that the seed is valuable, and it is expected that by next season there will be a great improvement.

About a year ago another company here decided to undertake the manufacture of oil and sent to the United States to employ an expert, who selected the machinery in the United States. About four months ago the mill began operation. Its product is of the very highest grade and is quoted on the market of this city on the same basis as oil from the United States. Several large shipments have already been made to Argentina, and the only impediment to the rapid expansion of the shipments is the difficulty the mill has in getting seed and in obtaining material for the manufacture of containers.

The imports of cottonseed oil into the State of São Paulo through the port of Santos during the past four years were: In 1913, 2,304,823 pounds, value \$205,259; in 1914, 1,889,021 pounds, value \$172,847; in 1915, 1,570,549 pounds, value \$144,484; in 1916, 244,794 pounds, value \$32,960. Prior to 1913 cottonseed oil was included with other vegetable oils. Statistics for 1917 are not available, but so far as is known only two small shipments were brought in early in the year. The quantity exported in 1917 is not known, but is believed to be considerably larger than the importations.

The War Has Stimulated Castor-Bean Crushing.

The war has developed a heavy demand for castor oil for aeroplane-motor lubrication. Consequently the despised castor bean, which has been regarded as something of a nuisance in this State heretofore on account of its persistence, has become a valuable resource and is being harvested wherever it can be found. It grows as a volunteer crop in nearly all cultivated land with a vigor and tenacity comparable only to that of the most common native weeds. Wherever it is introduced in this State it is almost impossible to eradicate it; it appears in the open spaces about the houses, in the midst of the growing crops, and in the fields after the harvests, or even in the new lands from which the forests have just been cleared and in old pasture lands.

Heretofore regarded as a pest, little attention has been paid to the plant. It was thought that it might eventually become more valuable for its fiber (for the manufacture of cordage) and for its leaves (which are said to be excellent food for silkworms) than for its oil. A few small mills throughout the State worked the beans to produce oil for sale in the backwoods districts, where it is used to a certain extent for illuminating purposes, for soapmaking, and as a lubricant.

The demand for the oil has reached a point where the call is far in excess of the producing capacity of the mills, and many American manufacturers are importing the beans to crush in their own mills. There are four small mills in this city. The proprietor of one of the cottonseed-oil mills mentioned above has sent a buyer to the United States to secure modern machinery for treating castor beans in a scientific manner.

Linseed and Peanuts—Other Oil Nuts.

Linseed oil has been imported almost exclusively from England and Argentina heretofore, that from the United States not having been in favor for some reason which is not apparent. A considerable amount of flax is now being grown in the States to the south of São Paulo, and the oil mills in this city are making preparations to treat the seed, it being believed that the same machinery can be adapted to the crushing of several different kinds of seeds, such as castor beans, linseed, and peanuts.

Peanuts, called "amendoim" in Portuguese, grow here with almost the same vigor as do the castor beans, and the mills will handle them, it is expected, with the same machinery used for other seeds. It is thought that the unlimited supply which is obtainable for at least six months in the year will enable the millers to produce oil in such quantities and at such low prices that the product will force itself on the market, although but little is used at the present time.

The forests of this State produce an immense variety of oil-bearing nuts. The cashew nut is perhaps the best known of these, but others are equally valuable for their oil. One, called the "ucuba" nut, is 60 per cent vegetable tallow; and another, called the "babasu," also contains 60 per cent of oil. A babasu nut will burn for half an hour if a match is touched to it. Its kernel is much like copra and is excellent for soap making.

TOBACCO PRODUCTION AND TRADE AT AMOY.

[Consul C. E. Gauss, Amoy, China, Sept. 18.]

The Amoy district produces about 10 per cent of the tobacco grown in China, and exports it in leaf as well as in prepared form to other Chinese ports and to Formosa, Java, and Sumatra. The imports of cigarettes amount to about \$100,000 United States currency annually.

Two classes of tobacco are grown in the Amoy district—kau hung, black tobacco, and tiao si hung, brown tobacco. Black tobacco is raised principally in the region of Siokhe, south of Changchow, and Pengho, near the border of Kwangtung. It is estimated that the annual crop is valued at about \$500,000 United States currency. Part of this is sent to Amoy, part to Swatow, and a considerable quantity finds its way for consumption to the interior of Fukien and Kwangtung.

Considerable quantities of the tobacco received at Amoy are exported by Japanese to Formosa. The average price per tobacco picul of about 200 pounds is \$17 local currency. A picul of tobacco contains 100 tobacco catties, equal to about 150 ordinary Amoy catties of 1½ pounds.

Three Grades of Black Tobacco.

There are three grades of black tobacco, the average prices for which are: First grade, \$27 local currency per picul; second grade, \$17; third grade, \$10.50. These are average prices for leaves not stripped, and using an average exchange of \$1 local currency equal to 45 cents United States currency, the three grades of black tobacco would be worth \$10.80, \$7.65, and \$4.73 United States currency, respectively. Stripped-tobacco prices are, roughly, double those indicated.

The finest black tobacco comes from Changtai, the district north-east of Changchow, and as the prices will show its value is considerably higher than that of ordinary black tobacco. The prices are: First grade, \$100 local (\$45 United States) for 200 pounds; second grade, \$72 local (\$32.40 United States); third grade, \$50 local (\$22.50 United States). About \$45,000 (United States currency) worth of the first grade is produced, \$25,000 of the second grade, and \$6,000 of the third grade.

Local and Foreign Tobacco Papers.

Tobacco leaves are gathered in this district in May. The black tobacco is prepared in Amoy by first stripping the leaves, then applying a small quantity of peanut oil and water, after which they are pressed. When thoroughly pressed they are cut and dried in pans. The product is prepared for smoking in cigarette form. Cigarette paper is manufactured in Amoy, about 60 pieces being sold for one copper cent (about one-half cent United States currency). Foreign tobacco papers sell at 200 sheets for 4 copper cents. They are of Japanese manufacture.

Of the black tobacco produced in Amoy, exports are principally to the Dutch East Indies, where the Amoy Chinese prefer their own product. Some goes also to the Straits Settlements. In leaf it goes to Formosa. The annual exports of prepared tobacco from Amoy are valued at about \$300,000; of leaf and stalks at \$85,000. These figures include any brown tobacco that may be exported. Amoy

people, both at home and abroad, prefer the black to the brown. The black is chiefly sent abroad and the brown to other parts of China.

Production of Brown Tobacco.

Brown tobacco is produced in the Yung Ting district of Tingchow. It is estimated that the output of this district is about \$1,000,000 worth. In recent years brown tobacco has come to be grown in the Shonghong, Lungyen, and Pengho districts, but here the quality is poor. About 3,000 piculs of brown tobacco come to Amoy every year. The average price when prepared is \$180 a tobacco picul (about \$81 United States currency).

The brown tobacco is prepared in the Yung Ting district, where it is produced, and not at Amoy. It is the class that is smoked in the familiar Chinese water pipes. The retail price, prepared, is: First quality, \$1.20 (54 cents United States) per package of 7 ounces; second quality, \$0.80 (35 cents United States); third quality, \$0.50 (22 cents United States).

Some attempt has been made locally to manufacture cigarettes, including imitation Manila cigarettes, but failure has always followed. One shop, which employs about three hands, is engaged in making cigars from alleged Manila tobacco. The product is a crude, cheap cigar selling at a low price; but the Chinese are not cigar smokers, and those who prefer cigars have usually acquired the habit abroad and can afford to import Manila cigars of good quality.

Features of Cigarette Trade.

The \$100,000 worth of trade in imported cigarettes is divided between a foreign company and a Chinese company. The former has factories in China, particularly in the north; the latter has factories in Canton, Singapore, etc., and is said to be a strong competitor for the cigarette trade of south China, which heretofore has largely been held by the foreign company. The Japanese have attempted to get into the market, but met with failure.

The class of cigarettes that is sold is not high. Native leaf, mixtures of native and American leaf, and Virginia leaf tobacco are on the market. Few Egyptian cigarettes are sold. The retail price of the cheaper brands is 4 or 5 cents local currency for a package of 10—about 2 cents or not more than 3 cents United States currency for 10 to 20 cigarettes.

[Samples of tobacco leaf and prepared tobacco which accompanied this report may be inspected at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district offices. Refer to file No. 94513. Articles on Chinese trade in tobacco and its products were published in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for Jan. 17, 1916, Jan. 24, and May 15, 1917.]

COAST PILOT, DIXON ENTRANCE TO YAKUTAT BAY.

The sixth edition of Part I of the United States Coast Pilot for Alaska, covering the coast and inland passages from Dixon Entrance to Yakutat Bay, has been issued by the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey. The publication includes courses and distances for the inland passage through British Columbia used by steam vessels to reach the waters of southeastern Alaska. It is based mainly on the work of the Survey, including the results of special examinations in 1916. Copies of the book may be obtained at 50 cents each from the Coast and Geodetic Survey, Washington, D. C., or from any of its agencies or suboffices.

FOREIGN MARKETS FOR IMITATION LEATHER.**MOROCCO.**

[Consul General Maxwell Blake, Tangier.]

No imitation leathers are imported into Morocco. The only prepared leather that the country obtains abroad is heavy sole leather, chiefly used by local cobblers and by the native Moorish slipper makers. Morocco produces large quantities of leather, which is tanned and dyed by native processes, and used in the manufacture of slippers.

Slipper makers are unlikely to give up the local leather, which is in high repute among the natives, and to substitute imitation leather in their crude industry, which is carried on entirely by native hand labor. No other enterprises in Morocco utilize in their output either genuine or artificial leather.

Small quantities of the imitation goods might be used for automobile repairs and furniture upholstery, but the amounts likely to be consumed at the present time would represent a negligible trade.

TUNIS.

[Consul Edwin C. Kemp, Tunis, June 19.]

It is difficult to obtain statistics showing the quantity of imitation leather that is imported into Tunis, for this product is entered as cotton goods by the customhouse. The demand is limited, however, to furniture makers and to three carriage builders, who also manufacture automobile bodies.

A sample of an American product was shown to one of the carriage builders, who said that no goods equal to it in quality had ever been seen in Tunis. The best grade now used here, which comes in widths of 1.28 meters (50 inches), costs 9 francs 50 per meter (\$1.67 per yard), an increase of 3 francs since the war. The carriage builders use a cheaper quality.

France is the present source of supply, and purchases are made direct from the manufacturers' catalogues and samples. There would be an immediate demand for the American articles if the prices were satisfactory. It is advisable to appoint a local agent who could call on the trade. It would not be profitable to send a personal representative, and any expense for an advertising campaign would be wasted. The agent should be furnished with samples and catalogues in French, as English is not a language with which one can do much business in Tunis. The usual commission of such agents is from 1 to 5 per cent on staples and up to 10 per cent on specialties.

Lines in Which Trade May Be Created.

The demand for imitation leather in the furniture trade is almost too small to be worth considering. One might be created in the shoe trade, however, as most of the 2,000,000 inhabitants of Tunis wear handmade shoes or slippers, and the rising cost of leather makes it probable that a cheaper article would be welcomed as a substitute. A smaller market might also be found among the native saddle makers, who do a fair business in embroidering pocketbooks and other novelties for the tourist trade, in addition to their regular work.

Imitation leather with a cotton base is classified under Nos. 404-436 of the Tunisian customs schedule, and pays a duty of 5 per cent *ad valorem* when of other than French origin. French goods are entered free of duty. Consular invoices are not required, but a certificate from a consul of France showing the origin of the goods and the nationality of the seller should accompany the documents.

Foreign patents and trade-marks are subject to the regulations of the international conventions of Paris and Madrid, to which Tunis is a party. In this protectorate the registration of patents and trade-marks is under the supervision of the Direction Générale de l'Agriculture, du Commerce et de la Colonisation.

Terms for Present and Future.

Payments at present are cash against documents in most cases. When normal conditions are reestablished easier terms will be necessary.

No special packing is suggested other than the usual one for Mediterranean ports. Shipments should be routed from New York to Tunis via Marseille. It is hoped that a more direct means of communication may be established soon, as it would greatly stimulate the purchase of American goods. Prices should be quoted *c. i. f.* Tunis, if possible; otherwise *f. o. b.* New York, with freight estimated.

A list of dealers in Tunis who are or might be interested in the purchase of imitation leather is forwarded. Correspondence with these firms may be direct if an agent is not desired, and should be in French. Prices may be quoted in dollars, and samples should be clearly marked.

[The list of names mentioned may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 90703.]

GREECE.

[Consul John E. Kehl, Saloniki.]

Previous to the present war, Saloniki dealers in imitation leather were importing and consuming 6,000 to 10,000 pieces of 12 yards each, annually. At present the imports amount to only about 25 per cent of those in antebellum years—a situation due entirely to war conditions. A market, therefore, awaits the business houses that can send the goods here.

Imitation leather is bought locally in widths of 45 to 55 inches. The present prices run from \$0.60 to \$1.57 per yard, depending on the quality. The best selling colors are dead black, lustrous black, maroon, green, and coffee color.

Before the war practically all the imitation leather used in Saloniki was imported from England, Germany, and Austria, especially from the first mentioned. English firms are now the sole source of supply. Before the war all imitation-leather concerns in England, Germany, and Austria were said to have been associated in a great syndicate. The prices were uniform, and each gave 12½ per cent discount from list prices.

Commission Agents Handle Bulk of Trade.

The bulk of the trade has been handled in the past by commission agents, although one or two of the largest furniture dealers and

repairers buy directly. Agents' commissions have been 5 per cent. No advertising would be necessary to introduce the product.

Imitation leather comes under schedule 332-A of the Greek customs tariff of 1914, according to which a duty of 1.45 drachmas per oke (\$0.099 per pound) is assessed on light stuffs and 0.43 drachma per oke (\$0.029 per pound) on heavy grades. There is nothing in the general laws of Greece on trade matters which would interfere with the sale of this product.

The law governing trade-marks is quite liberal. Although there is no treaty or convention between the United States and Greece on this subject, nevertheless the general law of February 10, 1893, as promulgated by the Royal decree of December 18, 1893, provides for the protection of trade-mark rights of all foreigners complying with certain provisions of Greek law. Under section 10 of this statute foreigners and Greek subjects carrying on business outside of Greek jurisdiction, in order to obtain trade-mark protection, must petition the clerk of the court of first instance at Athens to that effect. The petition may be made by the person directly interested or by a representative. The petition must be in triplicate and be accompanied by the registration fee of 60 drachmas gold (\$11.58). The papers are forwarded by the secretary of the court within 30 days to the director of the School of Industrial Arts, where the record is again made. Fifteen days thereafter it is printed in the Government Gazette.

Consular Officer's Certificate Required.

In the case of a foreigner the clerk of the court adds to the petition the name of the country in which the petitioner carries on his business, the name of the country in which the trade-mark is to be used, the dates of the foreign law protecting the trade-mark, of registration in that foreign country, of expiration of the protection in that country, and of the conventions on the subject between that country and Greece, if any, and a summary of the legal decisions in that country. The petition must, before presentation to the clerk of the court of first instance, have been certified to by the proper Greek consular officer in that country as to the following particulars: That all the formalities of the law of the country have been complied with; that the names and occupations of the interested party or parties and of their representative in Athens, if any, are true and correct; that the power of attorney to the Athens representative is properly drawn; and that the parties submit themselves to the law of the district of Athens.

There is no law in Greece regarding the granting of patents, and protection for inventions must be secured by a special enactment in each case.

Conditions Produced by Moratorium.

Before the war Saloniki dealers were accustomed to quotations from European business houses c. i. f. Saloniki and 30 to 90 days' credit. This has been changed by the war, and local merchants, while asking for c. i. f. quotations, nevertheless express themselves as willing to accept them f. o. b. New York from American firms and to acquiesce in "cash against shipping documents by confirmed credit at New York" as terms of sale. In some cases they have assented even to "cash advance of 25 per cent of value, balance

against documents." It is necessary to be cautious in all transactions here, for it is extremely difficult to ascertain the exact credit standing of firms in Saloniki on account of the moratorium that has been constantly in force since 1912.

Local dealers express a preference in the matter of packing for 12-yard rolls in solid wooden cases. Substantial methods are necessary on account of the extremely rough handling to which the goods are subjected. There is no direct steamer line between Saloniki and American ports, so that all goods must be transshipped at Piraeus, Marseille, or Naples. The Greek Steam Navigation Co. (Ltd.) handles practically all the direct trade with Greece and most of the freight from Piraeus to Saloniki.

[Lists of commission men and importers of imitation leather at Saloniki may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 91389.]

INCREASE IN GAS AND ELECTRIC RATES IN GLASGOW.

[Vice Consul Thomas H. Bevan, Glasgow, Scotland, Oct. 31.]

The price of coal having been increased by authority of the Controller of Mines by 60 cents per ton at the pits as from September 17, 1917, it has been found necessary to raise the rates for gas and electricity supplied by Glasgow Corporation.

The proposed gas rates show an increase of 8 cents per 1,000 cubic feet over the present rates. This makes the rate within the city supply district 73 cents per 1,000 cubic feet for gas supplied for lighting and domestic purposes in quantities up to 500,000 cubic feet, also for gas supplied for power and manufacturing purposes up to 20,000 cubic feet, and for hotels, clubs, and institutions, other than supplies for lighting, gas fires, and radiators, in quantities up to 100,000 cubic feet. There will be the usual reduced rates for larger quantities. The rate for supply through repayment meters will be 83 cents per 1,000 cubic feet.

The new rates about to go into effect represent an increase of about 60 per cent, as compared with the prewar rates, which were 46 cents per 1,000 cubic feet.

A report to the electricity committee states that the higher price of coal would entail on the department an additional expenditure on fuel for the current year of about \$121,662. The committee thereupon recommended a corresponding increase in the electric rates to make up for the added cost of coal.

OFFICES OF THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE.

DISTRICT OFFICES.

NEW YORK: 734 Customhouse.
BOSTON: 1801 Customhouse.
CHICAGO: 504 Federal Building.
ST. LOUIS: 402 Third National Bank Building.
NEW ORLEANS: 1020 Hibernia Bank Building.
SAN FRANCISCO: 807 Customhouse.
SEATTLE: 848 Henry Building.

COOPERATIVE OFFICES.

CLEVELAND: Chamber of Commerce.
CINCINNATI: Chamber of Commerce.
CINCINNATI: General Freight Agent, Southern Railway, 96 Ingalls Building.
LOS ANGELES: Chamber of Commerce.
PHILADELPHIA: Chamber of Commerce.
CHATTANOOGA: South American Agent, Southern Railway System.
DAYTON: Greater Dayton Association.
PORTLAND, OREG.: Chamber of Commerce.

NEW ZEALAND BONUS FOR QUICKSILVER PRODUCTION.

[Consul General Alfred A. Winslow, Auckland.]

The New Zealand Government has offered a bonus of 8 cents per pound for the first 100,000 pounds of retorted quicksilver that the mines in New Zealand produce under the following conditions:

1. That at least one-half of the quantity is produced on or before March 31, 1920, and the remaining half on or before March 31, 1921.

2. The first installment of the bonus will be paid when 50,000 pounds of quicksilver have been produced, as stipulated, to the satisfaction of an officer to be appointed by the minister for mines, and on whose certificate alone the bonus will be paid.

3. In the event of more than one person producing the required quantities of quicksilver before the dates mentioned, inquiry will be made by the officer who has been selected, and, if it is found that each applicant is equally entitled to a bonus, the amount will be divided in proportion to the quantities produced by each applicant; but in no case shall any bonus be paid until at least 50,000 pounds of quicksilver have been produced in the aggregate.

There are said to be several rich deposits of quicksilver in the Dominion, some having been worked to a limited extent. One is still being worked in a small way by a company which has offices in Auckland. Little has really been done as yet, however, for lack of sufficient capital, and it would seem that here is a chance to develop a good business.

[Reference to quicksilver production in New Zealand was made in COMMERCE REPORTS for Jan. 25, 1917.]

PIASSAVA IN GAMBIA AND SIERRA LEONE.

[Consul W. J. Yerby, Dakar, Senegal, Sept. 3.]

Piassava is a palm straw or fiber which grows in swampy sections of tropical countries. Much of it is found in Gambia and Sierra Leone, British West Africa, and in Liberia. It is exported to Europe, where it is used in the manufacture of street, factory, and warehouse brooms. The fiber is a coarse, stiff straw about the size of coarse broom-corn straw, 2 to 3 feet long, and said to make an excellent broom.

A letter received from the Gambia Colonial Secretary states that a company in Bathurst is the only firm working piassava in this colony, and it has only just begun to export. This firm operates within a concession extending from the western extremity of Papa Island, in the River Gambia, to the eastern extremity of Kaai Island and on the north and south to the international boundary of the Gambia Protectorate. This area includes the districts where the piassava plant is found in abundance.

Conditions of the Concession.

The concession granted to this firm is not exclusive and its chief conditions are: (1) The concession rights not to be assigned without permission; (2) the license to become void if no operation is carried on for two years; (3) the books of the grantee to be always open to inspection by the Government; (4) the Government to reserve the right to impose a tax not exceeding 5 per cent upon the moneys realized by the sale of the piassava; (5) the natives of the Protectorate to be allowed to enter the concession area and cut piassava for their personal use; (6) the operation of the license may be suspended by the Government if the piassava is found to be insufficient for future

needs; (7) the grantee to pay a nominal rent of £5 (\$24.33) a year for the first three years, and thereafter £100 (\$486.60) a year.

Price Lower Than Before War.

The Sierra Leone Colonial Secretary states that the price f. o. b. Bonthe before the war for piassava was \$96.30 per ton, and that on July 1, 1917, it was \$62.30. "The Sierra Leone piassava areas," he says, "are in Sherbro along the banks of rivers and in swamps. There are no dense forests of piassava palm as in the case of the oil palm. Labor is out of the question in this district, and especially with the high rate current in the district."

There were no exports of piassava from Gambia until 1916. The exports of piassava from Sierra Leone averaged 841 tons per year from 1909 to 1913, at an average value of \$68 per ton.

[The name of the firm in Gambia that is producing piassava may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 94196.]

SALT BEDS NEAR MATAMOROS, MEXICO.

[Consul G. C. Woodward, Matamoros, State of Tamaulipas, Oct. 30.]

Thirty miles from Matamoros and a few miles from the coast of the Gulf of Mexico are situated a number of salt beds, which are said to have during dry seasons an annual production of approximately 1,000,000 pounds. The land in this locality, having been formerly the bed of the Gulf, contains a great amount of salt. During the rainy season the beds of the lakes and lagoons fill with water, which becomes salty, and upon its evaporation a crust of salt is left from 1 to 3 inches in thickness. The salt is gathered by the owners of the lands on which the deposits are located; it is broken into pieces with bars and shovels and conveyed in boxes to the place of storage, later being hauled by team to Matamoros. Part of the output is used locally, the remainder being shipped to other Mexican points.

The cost of gathering this salt is about 20 cents a carga (300 pounds), to which is added a 15-cent State tax and a 3-cent Federal tax. It sells in Matamoros for about 1 cent a pound, and is used for table and other purposes. No attempt is made to refine it, and while that next to the ground contains more or less foreign substance the upper part of the salt crust is fairly free from sediment.

The output can not be depended upon regularly, owing to the fact that the salt is sometimes dissolved by rains during the "dry" season.

NEXT YEAR'S PRICES FOR DUTCH AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS.

[Paul L. Edwards, secretary to commercial attaché, The Hague.]

In order that Dutch farmers should have an idea of the prices they will get next year for their products, the Minister of Agriculture has issued a statement of prices that will be guaranteed by the State. They are as follows, per pound: Oats, 3.3 cents; summer barley, 3.54 to 3.94 cents; fodder beans, 4.6 cents; peas of all kinds, 5.5 cents; beans of all kinds, 5.9 cents; autumn crop potatoes for human consumption, 1.2 cents; caraway seed, 8.3 cents; canary seed, 5.2 cents; yellow mustard seed, 6.6 cents; and brown mustard seed, 9.3 cents.

The prices guaranteed for caraway and mustard seeds are to be considered the maximum. Later announcements will give the minimum prices for sugar beets, flax, fodder beets, onions, etc.

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the Bureau and its district and cooperative offices. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and state opportunity number. The Bureau does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases. Symbols: * Reported by American consular officers; † Reported by commercial attachés and commercial agents; ‡ Direct inquiries received by the Bureau.

In considering the following "opportunities" special regard should be had to the laws and regulations governing export licenses and trading with the enemy.

Asparagus.....	25880	Household goods.....	25886
Canned salmon.....	25881	Machinery.....	25885
Chemical products.....	25882	Office supplies.....	25889
Cigars.....	25880	Oils.....	25887
Cooking utensils.....	25886	Redwood.....	25880
Crockery.....	25886	Stationery.....	25884
Dried fruits.....	25880	Tannery equipment.....	25886
Elevators and elevator machinery.....	25883	Toys.....	25888
Filing cabinets.....	25888	Umbrella ribs and frames.....	25889
Glassware.....	25888	Wines.....	25880
Hardware.....	25886	Wooden heels.....	25879

25879.*—A man in Italy desires to purchase or secure an agency for the sale of wooden heels for women's shoes. Samples should be submitted. Cash will be paid. Correspondence may be in English. Reference.

25880.†—A firm in Norway wishes to represent American manufacturers and exporters of cigars, wines, redwood for cigar boxes, asparagus, and dried fruits, such as prunes, raisins, and apricots. Reference.

25881.*—The London agent of an Italian firm desires to purchase canned salmon. Quotations are desired per thousand cases. Quotations should be made f. o. b. New York. Payment will be made against documents by opening credit in United States bank. Correspondence may be in English. Reference.

25882.*—A firm in Portugal is in the market for all kinds of chemical products for commerce and industry. It also wishes to entertain an agency proposition. Payment will be made against documents or on other terms of shipment. Correspondence should be in Spanish or French. References.

25883.*—An agency is desired by a commission agent in Spain for the sale of elevators and elevating machinery. Correspondence should be in Spanish. References.

25884.†—A firm in China wishes to receive complete information, prices, etc., of plant and equipment for a tannery to handle 100 hides daily. Information should contain size of plant and time required for delivery of machinery. Initial production will be limited to sole leather.

25885.*—A man in Italy desires to purchase machinery or devices for stamping inches and decimal system on wooden rulers and squares. Samples should be submitted. Correspondence should be in French or Italian. Cash will be paid. Reference.

25886.*—An agency on a commission basis is desired by a man in Uruguay for the sale of general hardware, household goods, cooking utensils, glassware, and crockery, toys, and other general lines. Quotations should be made f. o. b. New York net prices, commission to be stated separately. Payment will be made by cash against shipping documents at destination, with right for customer to inspect goods. Correspondence should be in Spanish. References.

25887.*—A man in Italy wishes to secure an agency for the sale of machine oils for dynamos, transmission, and motors and heavy oils in general. Samples should be submitted. Cash will be paid. Correspondence may be in English, but French or Italian is preferred. References.

25888.*—An association in the Dominican Republic desires to purchase steel filing cabinets for correspondence. Quotations should be made f. o. b. New York. Cash will be paid. Correspondence may be in English.

25889.*—A merchant in England is in the market for wholesale quantities of umbrella ribs and frames.

25890.*—A company in Spain desires to purchase and secure an agency for the sale of stationery and office supplies in general. Payment will be made by check on New York bank on receipt of goods. Correspondence may be in English. References.

COMMERCE REPORTS



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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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No. 274 Washington, D. C., Thursday, November 22 1917

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BRITISH DECREE CONCERNING HIDES AND LEATHER.

The American Consul General at London cables that the British War Office has extended control of horsehides in raw state to leather produced therefrom, and now takes possession of such leather from domestic or imported horsehides.

BRITISH GOVERNMENT REGULATES PROFITS ON PORK PRODUCTS.

[Cablegram from American consul general, London, Nov. 10.]

Food Controller fixes wholesale gross profits allowed to importers of bacon, ham, and lard from 3s. to 7s. per hundredweight; secondary wholesaler allowed profit up to maximum 9s.; retailers allowed to make gross profit of 3d. per pound for bacon, 2d. per pound for lard.

VESSELS ENTERING THE PORT OF BUENOS AIRES.

[Consul General W. Henry Robertson, Buenos Aires, Argentina, Oct. 15.]

According to official statistics, 61 steamers and sailing ships entered the port of Buenos Aires during September, as against 57 in August, 52 in July, 53 in June, and 57 in May. The number of ship arrivals in September, 1916, was 117, as against 142 for the same month in 1915 and 70 in 1914. There were 479 fewer ships that entered the port during the first nine months of the current year than in the same period of 1916.

Import cargo brought to the port in September totaled 174,560 tons, being the highest figure for any month of this year since January, when imports amounted to 182,066 tons. The figure for September, 1916, was 214,342 tons. There were 329,352 tons less of cargo arriving in the first nine months of this year than in the same period last year.

POTATO SITUATION IN NEW BRUNSWICK.

[Consul E. Verne Richardson, Moncton, New Brunswick, Canada, Nov. 15.]

Uncertainty as to the immediate and near-future demand in the United States and present difficulty of shipment because of a shortage of railroad cars have materially affected the New Brunswick potato market since the last of the crop was harvested a few weeks ago.

The yield throughout the Province is this year far below normal. Reports from different districts vary, but it is reasonably safe to estimate the aggregate as not more than 50 per cent of the average for ordinary seasons. Much disappointment has been felt by farmers at the comparative failure of their crop, which, owing to increased planted acreage, was expected to be fully 25 per cent greater than usual, but which, in early September, was damaged by frost and excessive dampness, developing blight and rust.

The Dealers' Point of View.

In various centers of the Province are to be found large warehouses for the storage of potatoes, whose proprietors buy from the farmers in the surrounding country and hold stocks in store until market conditions are such as to warrant selling. From these warehouses shipments go forward to the cities of the upper Canadian Provinces, to Cuba and the West Indies, and to the United States.

That is the practice in normal seasons. This year, however, the situation is widely different. Several of the largest of the warehousing concerns have closed their doors to any buying, not being willing to pay more than \$2.75 per barrel to the farmers—a price the farmers are not now prepared to accept. Among the trade generally there is the feeling that there is too much mystery about the market to make open dealing safe. The dealers are, therefore, indisposed to quote for future delivery, and shipping is practically at a standstill.

Shipments Past and Future.

Since the beginning of the current quarter invoices representing 32 carloads of potatoes have been certified at the Moncton consulate for export to the United States. These 32 cars carried 22,479 bushels, valued for export at \$24,481, or an average of little over \$1 a bushel. As the season is too far advanced to admit of shipments of potatoes being made in ordinary box cars, owing to risk of freezing, insulated cars or cars lined and heated by individual stoves will now be required. The supply of insulated cars is limited even in times of less congestion than the present; to-day the position is acute. The prospect is that those farmers and warehousemen who are delaying moving their stocks until later in the year will experience more or less disappointment on this account and suffer considerable monetary loss.

The "boom" in potatoes, which New Brunswick operators remember with pleasure as the outstanding feature of last winter's trading, is undoubtedly responsible in a measure for the existing indisposition to do quick business. Despite the reduced yield there are unquestionably many thousands of barrels available for export, but the outlook for their release at present offerings is not bright.

ARGENTINE LAW REQUIRES HARDWOOD SLEEPERS.

[Consul General W. Henry Robertson, Buenos Aires.]

Article No. 21 of Argentine Law 5315, commonly known here as the "Mitre Law," provides that all ties to be employed on the railroads of the Republic shall be of hardwood of the country. Prior to the passing of this law tracks were laid on what are called pot sleepers, but these now have been replaced largely by hardwood of Argentina.

Attitude of the State Railways.

The general manager of the Argentine Central Railway, one of the leading lines of the country, states that out of a total of 5839 kilometers of running line, 792 are laid on steel sleepers, 4,825 on wooden ties, and 222 on cast-iron pots. The steel sleepers, he says, were either already in the track or were in stock at the time the "Mitre Law" came into force. It is declared that the State railways have never made use of steel railway ties, since the Government always has been inclined to favor the native quebracho colorado sleeper.

Any future market for metal railroad ties must depend largely upon a change in the Government restrictions and on comparative prices of the ties from other countries. All contracts of any size for supplies for the British railways in Argentina, which are by far the most important, must be made through their head offices in London and invariably are passed upon there by the consulting engineers or the heads of the material department.

Relative Cost of Metal and Wood.

An expert says that metal sleepers cost more than the quebracho sleeper and are worth less to a railway company, since their life is not so long, especially in districts where the soil is of a corrosive nature, this conditions obtaining largely among the railway systems here. The claim is made that the only advantages the metal sleepers have over wooden ones are that in arid, sandy districts their concave underside enables them to stand up better, as the sand can not "pump" out, and that the fastenings are always superior to the spike or screw spike and can be made to hold the rail against "creep."

The disadvantages of metal sleepers are higher cost, corrosibility resulting in shorter life, susceptibility to damage from derailed stock, fixity of gauge which prevents the easing of gauge on curves, and with most types it takes longer to lay them. This does not apply to certain 100-pound types.

The railways are said generally to hold at present large stocks of quebracho sleepers, although constructions are for the moment suspended on account of poor business conditions. One railroad has nearly 300,000 quebracho sleepers ready for use. Although the Government normally does not permit the use of metal sleepers, but stipulates the use of native hardwood, in times of scarcity and rush construction special permission has been granted for the use of imported sleepers, both metal and wood.

The number of pigs killed or bought dead by Irish bacon curers during the 41 weeks ended October 11, 1917, was 735,731, against 940,812 for the same period in 1916 and 1,061,822 in 1915. The number of live pigs exported from Ireland during the 1917 period was 162,823, against 177,374 for the 1916 period and 115,451 for the 1915 period.

NEW DEPARTMENT STORE OPENED AT SHANGHAI.

[Consul General Thomas Sammons, Shanghai, China, Oct. 26.]

The Sincere Company (Ltd.), a Chinese owned Hongkong corporation, has opened an up-to-date department store on Shanghai's foremost retail business street (Nanking Road). This is the largest native store of the kind in China. While primarily, it will cater to the needs of the native population, the wants of the foreigners will also be considered. Its several departments include groceries and provisions, wines and spirits, kitchenware and hardware, cigars and tobaccos, smokers' requisites, patent medicines, perfumery, and confectionery. It has also drapery, millinery, haberdashery, and furnishing departments. Electrical supplies, sporting goods, toys, musical instruments, and every other imaginable article can be found on the premises. The owners evidently intend that the store will be a success, as despite shipping difficulties they have managed to fill the store with seasonable goods, when old established foreign stores have found it difficult to replenish their stock. In conjunction with the store an hotel is to be operated, to be fitted and equipped with the latest appliances. There is also a roof garden where teas and other refreshments are served.

HONGKONG HOSIERY TRADE.

[Consul General George E. Anderson, Hongkong, British China, Oct. 2.]

The hosiery trade in Hongkong now consists of two distinct divisions, namely, imported hosiery for the high-class trade and locally-manufactured articles for the cheaper trade. Previous to the war this cheaper trade was supplied very largely by Germany and to some extent by Japan, and Japanese socks still compete to a small extent with the locally made goods; but in a general way the Hongkong and South China knitting factories (employing chiefly Japanese-made yarn) are now supplying the great bulk of the cheap trade. The better-grade trade is largely American in hosiery for both men and women.

The women's trade is principally in silk goods. Japanese makers claim a large share of the cheaper grade of silk stockings. The Japanese stockings, however, do not wear well and soon spot. The demand generally is for a quality better than the Japanese but not up to the highest class of American goods. The American goods here are mainly second grade; they do not wear so well as the higher grade, and the climate causes them to go to pieces very quickly, particularly until they are washed. Nevertheless few of the shops stock the highest-grade goods from any country, for the losses incident to keeping valuable goods any length of time are too great to make the trade at all profitable. The experience of most local users of the second quality hosiery, however, is such that the call for the better grade is improving, and just at present there is an increasing demand for the average or standard grades and highly advertised goods.

Men's Hose—Demand for Haberdashery.

In men's socks the demand runs largely to standard American silk and fine cotton socks and to English fine woolen goods. The widely-advertised brands of American socks are pretty much the

standard in the market now, and there is no reason, apparently, why such should not continued to be the case. There is a heavier trade here in fine woolen hosiery than would naturally be expected in a hot climate. The English goods imported to meet this demand are of a very fine quality and priced accordingly.

In spite of war conditions general demand for haberdashery of a high grade continues and is rather on the increase. The proportion of American goods is far above normal. There is especial call for high-grade neckwear and for such goods as very fine woolen pajamas and the like. American collars have been introduced and are sold in increasing amounts, but in a general way do not successfully compete with British goods of the same sort where the latter can be had. There is less demand for foreign-made underwear than formerly, the better-class trade being supplied more generally by locally made non-knit goods, while the cheaper trade is supplied largely by locally-made and Japanese knit goods. In all these goods sales are below normal, but the American share of the trade is much above normal.

CHANGES IN BRITISH ELECTRICAL INDUSTRY PREDICTED.

[Consul J. S. Armstrong, jr., Bristol, Oct. 19.]

The annual report of the Bristol Electricity Department, which is municipally owned, contains comments on the position of the electrical trades after the war, and the question of insuring an adequate and economical supply of electric power for all classes of consumers, particularly for industries dependent on cheap current for their development. In a discussion of these subjects, the engineer states:

It appears likely that in the very near future the organization of the electricity-supply industry throughout the country will be rearranged on a much broader basis than hitherto, the country being for such purpose divided into districts irrespective of municipal boundaries or the present limits of company-supply areas, and the generating stations of the future being fewer in number and equipped with larger plant than that at present in general use.

Record of Past Year at Bristol.

In spite of the fact that the units sold have increased by nearly 2,000,000, Government restrictions, the high cost of coal, and the added expenses of war-time operations have made the past year a very unsatisfactory one from the financial point of view. In this connection the engineer says:

The Government placed such restrictions upon the supply to new consumers as practically to prohibit supply to any company or person unless such were necessary for war purposes. Instead of having the usual increased consumption for all supplies, the war has therefore resulted in a lessening of the normal increase for power purposes, and a very serious reduction in the sales for lighting, not only by the loss of new consumers but also due to the restricted lighting orders and the disuse of public lighting, to which undesirable result the operation of the summer-time act also has contributed somewhat. The reduction in revenue, taken in conjunction with the extraordinary increases in the cost of coal and other materials and the advances granted to employees, has seriously affected the financial results.

The increase in connections in the year under review was equal to 47,469 80-watt lamps. The new business was almost entirely due to the growing popularity of electricity for power, heating, and cooking purposes, these connections being equal to 44,297 lamps.

URUGUAYAN MARKET FOR SCHOOLBOOKS.

[Special Agent Robert S. Barrett.]

While the Uruguayan market for schoolbooks is limited, it offers some possibilities to American publishers and printers. There has been a noteworthy improvement in educational matters in Uruguay in recent years. Not only have the number of schools and pupils increased, but the methods have been improved and the public-school system strengthened. In 1914 there were 997 public schools with 1,973 teachers and 94,940 students. The number of schools, teachers, and students has practically doubled in the last 20 years.

The school system is divided into three principal divisions—primary instruction, secondary instruction, and university training. The primary instruction is under the direction of the Inspección Nacional de Instrucción Primaria, a national council which has supreme jurisdiction of this branch. Schoolbooks for the primary grade are approved by this council, but each teacher is permitted to select from the approved list the books which are used by the pupils. Some 400 separate books are on the approved list, but only a few of these have any extensive use. Among the latter are 15 books, of which 70,000 copies are purchased annually. The greatest demand is for readers, and two series, both prepared by Uruguayan educators, have the largest sale. The Figueira Series prepared by Dr. Jose H. Figueira consists of five books, corresponding to the First, Second, Third, and Fourth Readers that are used in the United States. The books are well illustrated and are bound in boards. The First Reader is called "Quieres Leer?" (Do You Want to Read?), the second "Adelante!" (Forward!); the Third "Un Buen Amigo" (A Good Friend), the Fourth "Trabajo" (Labor), and the Fifth "Vida" (Life). The annual consumption of the five books is about 50,000 copies.

Printing of New Editions Considered.

Previous to the war the books were printed in Germany and editions ranged from 100,000 copies of the First Reader to 10,000 copies of the Fifth Reader. The printing of new editions of all five books is now being considered, and an opportunity will be given to American printers and publishers to estimate on their production. Similar series of readers prepared by Dr. Figueira are in use in Paraguay and Argentina. Another popular series of readers consists of six books prepared by Sra. Ema Catala de Princivalle, which have an annual sale of from 2,000 to 4,000 copies each. These books have heretofore been printed in Montevideo.

In the normal schools, universities, and private schools a large number of different books are in use, but the quantity of any particular book is small. They are, as a rule, printed in Montevideo, and editions of over 1,000 copies are rare. Small quantities of medical, scientific, and law books are imported from the United States, Great Britain, Argentina, and European countries.

Imports of Books.

In 1911 the value of all bound books imported into Uruguay was \$87,089, of which Great Britain supplied \$35,450, Argentina, \$24,459, and the United States \$7,510. In 1915, when all Uruguayan imports

were greatly diminished, the value of the imports were \$28,589, of which Argentina supplied \$8,838, France \$7,652, the United Kingdom \$6,217, and the United States \$223. The greater part of these imports consisted of works of fiction. The preponderance of imports from Great Britain over those from the United States in 1911 was due to the large English colony in Uruguay, who had a preference for the works of English authors.

Montevideo has several large printing offices equipped with modern machinery, but heretofore they have been unable to compete with European edition printers.

[Samples of five school books used in Uruguay, upon which bids are desired for printing from 10,000 to 100,000 copies each, have been received by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, and placed on exhibit at the New York, Boston, and Chicago district offices, where they may be inspected by interested parties. Refer to file No. 1313.]

FURTHER MEANS TO CONTROL DUTCH AGRICULTURAL OUTPUT.

[Paul L. Edwards, clerk to commercial attaché, The Hague.]

The Dutch Minister for Agriculture has published a list of groups of agricultural products, indicating the percentage of the average crops in 1913, 1914, and 1915, to which the cultivation of each group will be reduced in favor of more essential products. They are as follows:

(1) Caraway seed, mustard seed, canary seed, seed onions, and shalots will be limited to 40 per cent; (2) Westerwoldsch ray grass seed, spinach seed, radish seed, white turnip seed, yellow turnip seed, cabbage seed, onion seed, Spanish radish seed, celery seed, and seeds of other vegetables, 70 per cent; (3) sugar beets, 80 per cent; (4) flax, 50 per cent; (5) chicory, 100 per cent; (6) tobacco, 100 per cent; (7) cabbage, carrots, spinach, green beans, leeks, celery, and other vegetables, 50 per cent, with the exception of businesses solely devoted to market-garden produce. Measures for the reduction of the cultivation of yellow and white turnips and fodder beets and carrots will be published later. Export of these articles will in no case be allowed. Possibly cultivation for the farmers' own use will be allowed, but the surplus will be requisitioned for distribution at comparatively low prices.

Cultivation of cabbage and green beans on plowed-up grass land, which was allowed in 1917, will no longer be permitted. Grass land that has been plowed up in the winter of 1916-17 is now to be considered as ordinary land.

NEW SWEDISH AUTOTRUCK.

[Vice Consul Arthur E. J. Reilly, Stockholm, Oct. 17.]

The Aktiebolaget Scania-Vabis of Malmo has placed on the market an automobile entirely new in construction. It is a truck with a capacity of 4 tons and is especially intended for drawing other wagons of different kinds. With this object in view it is equipped with driving and steering gear on all four wheels and can be guided from both ends.

FOREIGN MARKETS FOR SHOES AND LEATHER.

CANADA.

[Consul W. Roderick Dorsey, Quebec, Oct. 17.]

A manufacturer of shoes in Quebec has furnished statistics in which his output is graded and the prices for 1914 and 1917 are compared. Two retailers, one of whom caters to the most exclusive trade and the other to less exclusive customers, also have prepared similar statistics for the two years mentioned. In each instance various prices are given together with a statement of the percentage of the total trade of the respective firms that is represented by each price. Men's and women's shoes are listed separately. The figures are:

Articles.	Manufacturer's prices.				Retailer's prices for exclusive styles.				Medium trade.			
	1914		1917		1914		1917		1914		1917	
	Price.	Per cent of sales.	Price.	Per cent of sales.	Price.	Per cent of sales.	Price.	Per cent of sales.	Price.	Per cent of sales.	Price.	Per cent of sales.
Men's shoes:												
First grade...	\$2.50	30	\$4.00	20	\$5.50-\$6.50	30	\$3.50-\$3.00	30	\$3.50-\$4.00	33	\$5.00-\$6.00	33
Second grade...	2.75	50	4.40	50	6.50-7.50	35	8.00-9.50	50	4.00-6.00	17	6.00-10.00	17
Third grade...	3.00	20	4.85	30	7.50-8.50	20	9.50-12.00	20	5.00-7.00	50	6.50-10.00	50
Fourth grade...					8.50-10.00	15						
Women's shoes:												
First grade...	2.25	30	4.00	40	5.50-7.00	30	5.50-7.00	20	3.00	25	5.00	25
Second grade...	2.50	50	4.50	40	7.00-8.50	35	7.00-9.00	35	4.00	35	6.00	35
Third grade...	3.00	20	4.85	20	8.50-10.00	25	9.00-12.00	30	5.00	25	7.00	25
Fourth grade...					10.00-12.00	10	12.00-16.00	15	6.00	15	8.00	15

Increases Due to Production or Handling.

The manufacturer who has been mentioned finds that the approximate percentage of increased cost due to production or handling is as follows: Material cost for men, 55 per cent; for women, 60 per cent; labor and handling, 20 per cent for both men and women.

A second manufacturer who produces but one grade of men's shoes—Goodyear welts—says that his selling price in 1914 was \$2.45 compared with \$3.75 during the last 12 months, and that 65 per cent of the increase may be attributed to cost of production and handling.

The retailer who caters to the most exclusive trade reports that the approximate percentage of increase due to cost of production or handling is placed at 30 per cent for men's footwear and from 30 to 35 per cent for women's. In the case of the second retailer, the approximate portion of increase due to cost of handling is placed at 10 per cent.

A retailer of children's shoes states that in 1914 prices ranged from 75 cents to \$3, with about an even percentage of sales in each grade. During the last 12 months they have been 33 per cent higher, with 10 per cent increase attributable to cost of handling.

Shoes of Extravagant Styles.

An unusually large sale of shoes of extravagant styles has been made in Quebec during the war according to both manufacturers and retailers. Men to some extent are attracted by tan and light-colored leathers, but on the whole they buy sensible shoes. It is unanimously

asserted that great extravagance has prevailed in women's footwear, brought about by short skirts and resulting high boots with fancy effects.

In 1913 and 1914 black cloth-top boots were popular, but with the advent of short skirts and high boots the feminine public demanded full leather tops. In 1914 fair heights were $6\frac{1}{2}$ and 7 inches, but since then tops of $8\frac{1}{2}$, 9, and $9\frac{1}{2}$ inches have constituted the bulk of the sales. Formerly one skin answered for two or more pairs of boots, whereas to-day it yields only one pair.

One dealer sees a growing tendency toward low heels and solid-leather shoes, but feels that extravagant styles will prevail until skirts are lengthened. Another thinks that manufacturers should be asked to put fewer "freak or showy lines on the market," for the retailer is bound to buy them to keep up with his competitors.

MEXICO.

[Consul G. C. Woodward, Matamoros, Tamaulipas, Oct. 19.]

Manufacturers in the United States have practically exclusive control of the trade in shoes in the Matamoros district, as all shoes worn by the middle and wealthier classes are of American make. A cheaper grade, which is sold to a considerable extent, is manufactured in Leon, Guanajuato, Mexico, and the distributing point for the State of Tamaulipas is Monterey, Nuevo Leon. Samples of this shoe for adults of both sexes shown by a local merchant were marked \$3 United States gold per pair. Their noticeable feature, distinguishing them from those of American manufacture, other than the quality of material and workmanship, was that the back was unstiffened or pliable, which was considered a drawback to their sale, and that the sole lacked pliability, being very stiff, as if reinforced with some material other than leather. The shoes are of a very cheap grade both in style and material, although no leather substitute had been used and they were partially handmade.

Practically all shoes worn by the people along the border in Mexico are purchased in the adjacent American cities and worn across in order to escape the payment of duty, which is 1.75 pesos Mexican gold per pair for ordinary footwear and adds considerably to the price of the shoe. There is also more or less trade through United States mail-order houses.

Purchases by People in Interior Cities.

The people of the interior cities of the State either purchase through mail-order houses or from merchants who get their stocks from dealers in Brownsville, Houston, San Antonio, or other business centers of Texas.

A form of sandal known in Mexico as a "huarache" is worn to a great extent by farm laborers. This consists of a leather sole, generally tied with leather thongs, although in some cases plaited-grass soles and rope thongs are used.

The sole leather about one-quarter of an inch in thickness is sold in pieces about 1 foot square for 60 cents and is sufficient to make a pair of sandals. These are formed and the thongs affixed by the wearer. The thongs are about three-eighths of an inch wide, one-eighth of an inch thick, and $3\frac{1}{2}$ feet long, retailing at 20 cents United

States currency per pair. The materials for making the sandals are generally sold by all small dealers.

[Vice Consul Thomas Dickinson, Guadalajara, Oct. 18.]

American Shoes Popular in District.

Guadalajara is a good market for American shoes. Many establishments deal in this line, some exclusively.

At present the quickest and best route of shipment is from San Francisco, Cal., to Manzanillo, Mexico, by steamer, thence by rail to Guadalajara, taking about three weeks. Importers of American shoes here find this route more satisfactory, even when ordering from Boston or St. Louis manufacturers, than overland shipments by way of Laredo. The method of packing that is now used by American manufacturers is approved here.

Sales of American shoes in Guadalajara, Mexico, amount in normal times approximately to \$6,000 a month. At present, however, it is difficult to give any correct estimate. The English styles are preferred. Formerly French styles predominated. The prices range from 10 to 30 pesos Mexican silver.

The Mexican duty on shoes is from 1.15 to 1.75 pesos Mexican silver per pair, all over 20 centimeters (7.87 inches) in length being subject to the higher rate.

Importance of Terms of Payment.

American shoe manufacturers are requiring full payment in advance from dealers in Guadalajara. Mexican firms object to these terms and find it difficult to meet them. Payment formerly was made 60 days after goods were shipped. Some of the dealers suggest the granting of 60 days in which to make payment, provided they give American manufacturers satisfactory financial references as to the capital invested in their business and any other properties, as a guaranty for payment. If some such method could be worked out between American manufacturers and firms here doubtless it would mean the permanent predominance of American shoes, not only in the city of Guadalajara, but in the large and rich district of which it is the natural commercial center.

FRENCH WEST INDIES.

[Consul Henry T. Wilcox, Guadeloupe.]

Shoes are sold in Guadeloupe by the dry-goods merchants, who buy from exporters in France and the United States on their own account. The demand for American shoes is growing, and probably will continue to grow during the war. Imports of footwear into the colony during 1913, 1914, and 1915 were:

Years.	From all countries.		From United States.	
	Pairs.	Value.	Pairs.	Value.
1913.....	38,680	\$25,150	47	\$68
1914.....	48,014	46,334	30	41
1915.....	37,788	35,199	1,550	1,842

Prices which may be quoted in dollars or francs are preferred c. i. f. Pointe-à-Pitre. It is customary for purchasers to be granted a

discount of 2 per cent for cash. The terms of credit usually allowed by American firms are 60 days. French exporters grant longer credits. Freight from the United States is brought to the colony by vessels of the Quebec Steamship Co., 32 Broadway, New York, and the Raporel Steamship Co., 17 Battery Place, New York. Correspondence and advertising matter for Guadeloupe merchants should be in French.

[A list of dry-goods importers in Guadeloupe may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 94708b.]

SWITZERLAND.

[Consul William P. Kent, Berne, Sept. 12.]

The Swiss trade is especially anxious to obtain sole leather. Offers of hemlock, as well as split leather, should be of the greatest interest. There is also a great demand for light leathers, such as chamois, linings, sheep, etc. The big stocks of uppers, glazed kid, and patent leathers that were in the country at the outbreak of the war, together with subsequent shipments, account for the present small demand for these articles, except for chevreaux, which should find a ready sale.

Little or no leather is now received from Germany. This explains Switzerland's need of split leather. Germany in former years supplied this country with that product, which was obtained in the raw state from the United States.

Swiss leather prices have gone up in some cases more than 100 per cent. Present prices for hemlock in halves are \$1.30 to \$1.70 per kilo (2.2 pounds); in bends, \$1.65; split leather, \$1.30 to \$1.80 (English); box calf, \$1.10 to \$1.60; patent leather (made from split), \$1.30 to \$1.60 (German); chevreau, \$0.55 to \$1.20.

All over-sea transactions are now cash against documents or confirmed credit with a New York bank. If prices c. i. f. French port were offered it would very much increase the chance of doing business in this market. Catalogues in French and German, with samples, should be sent where practicable.

The duty on leather varies from \$2 to \$5 per 220 pounds gross; upper leather pays \$0.77 to \$4.50. The imports during 1914 and 1915 were:

Classes of goods.	1914	1915	United States' share in 1915.
Sole leather of every kind, heads, bellies, etc.	\$1,135,520	\$1,868,950	\$1,558,378
Upper leather, calf, nature brown	46,513	51,087	
Upper leather, calf, grained, blackened	367,780	391,336	10,537
Small leather, neat's leather, etc.	132,667	62,161	16,887
Other upper leathers	1,054,113	1,395,851	726,838
Leather not otherwise described	333,050	488,908	46,448

Shipments into Switzerland through or from the allied countries are controlled by the Société Suisse de Surveillance Economique (S. S. S.), and attached to the latter are the syndicates specializing in the various lines. Each Swiss importer has to be a member of such a syndicate, depositing a guarantee of \$2,000 to \$5,000. He addresses his first request for a permit to import to the syndicate. Such an importer must not necessarily have been importing before

the war, but his imports are subject to the total amount allowed importation, which represents the average imported during 1912-1913. In the case of leather and supplies the following syndicates are involved: (1) Importstelle des Verbandes Schweiz. Lederhändler, Dr. W. Martin, Laupenstr. 7, Bern. (2) Import-Syndicat der Schweiz. Schuhindustrie, Dr. Reinhardt, Solothurn.

SALE OF BEER RESTRICTED IN GREAT BRITAIN.

[Consul General Robert P. Skinner, London, Oct. 31.]

The Ministry of Food, in a recent order, imposes certain restrictions on the sale of beer.

It was ordered that on and after October 28, 1917, a person shall not sell or offer for sale any draft beer in any licensed premises having a public bar unless the beer is sold by imperial measure and at prices not exceeding the maximum rate fixed by the order.

Where beer is sold in a public bar, it is provided that the maximum price for beer of an original gravity less than 1,036° shall be at the rate of 4d. (\$0.081) per imperial pint, and for beer of an original gravity not exceeding 1,042° and not less than 1,036° shall be at the rate of 5d. (\$0.101) per imperial pint.

Beer Sold in Barrels and Casks—Analysis—Contracts.

It is provided that no delivery of beer from any brewery shall be made until there has been plainly and durably on the head of each barrel or cask containing beer of an original gravity less than 1,036° marked "4d.," and on any barrel or cask containing beer of an original gravity not exceeding 1,042° and not less than 1,036°, the mark "5d.," in figures not less than 2 inches in height. If the original gravity exceeds 1,042°, this fact should be stated on the invoice. No dealer or retailer shall alter or deface any marks made on barrels or casks, and they shall not dilute or permit to be diluted beer sold in these containers.

The regulations also provide for analysis of beer by authorized persons, who may buy the same from any public bar for this purpose.

In cases of alleged infringement of the regulations the retailer shall be discharged from prosecution if he can prove that he purchased the beer from a person who sold the same as an article that might lawfully be sold in a public bar at the price charged and that he had no reason to believe that the gravity was other than that provided by the order and that he has duly given notice that he intended to comply with all the clauses of the present regulation.

Where the Food Controller is of opinion that the price payable under any contract subsisting at the date of this order for the sale of beer of a gravity not exceeding an original gravity of 1,042°, is such that the beer can not be sold at a reasonable profit at the prices permitted, it is provided that the contract may be canceled or modified in such terms as would appear to be just.

Increase in Production Allowed.

Another recent order of the Food Controller states that during the quarter commencing October 1, 1917, the maximum barrelage which each brewer is authorized to brew under the intoxicating liquor order shall be increased by 20 per cent, and, in addition, by such further

amount, if any, as in his case may be authorized by special license of the Food Controller. Brewers are thus authorized to produce, during the quarter, an increase of 20 per cent on their former production, but it is provided that notice of this intention be given on or before October 27, 1917.

The conditions subject to which the 20 per cent increase is authorized are that one-half of the total amount of the beer produced by the various brewers during each quarter shall be brewed and delivered at a gravity not exceeding an original gravity of 1,042° and that the remaining half shall be brewed at an average original gravity not exceeding the gravity of the total amount brewed at each brewery during the quarter beginning October 1, 1916.

The supply of beer from breweries to public bars is also regulated as follows:

(1) The number of standard barrels in possession of the various licensed bars may be increased by 20 per cent.

(2) Brewers undertaking a contract to supply public bars shall not supply more than one-half of the beer at a gravity exceeding an original gravity of 1,402°.

COAL MINING IN SPITZBERGEN.

[Vice Consul Arthur E. J. Reilly, Stockholm, Sweden, Oct. 23.]

In order to introduce improved mining methods in the Swedish coal mines in Spitzbergen, there was formed last year the Swedish Spitzbergen Coalfields Co. (Ltd.). Much preliminary work has been done, but it is hardly possible that any coal will be mined this year. It is calculated that a considerable amount can be produced in 1918; that from 30,000 to 40,000 tons can be mined in July and August of next year.

A plan has been proposed, however, which, if carried into effect, will make possible an annual output of 1,000,000 tons. According to this project, a railway about 50 miles long would be built from the company's property, Sveagravorna (the Svea mines), to the western coast of Spitzbergen, where a harbor can be made which will enable coal to be shipped during eight months of the year instead of two months as at present.

SALE OF METHYLATED SPIRITS IN AUSTRALIA.

[Consul General J. I. Brittain, Sydney, Oct. 4.]

Recent publications indicate that all methylated spirits sold in Australia and New Zealand is manufactured by the Colonial Sugar Refining Co. in Sydney.

Recently there have been many complaints against the retailers for charging high prices for methylated spirits. The price charged by the manufacturer to the wholesale firms is 31 cents per gallon in bulk, and 40 cents in cans, and the highest wholesale selling price per single case is 55 cents per gallon, and much less in larger quantities.

It is claimed that the retailers in many cases have been making a profit of about 100 per cent, and an appeal has been made to the Necessity Commodities Commission to have the price fixed by law.

CONDITIONS IN THE ITALIAN CHEMICAL TRADE.

[Consul North Winship, Milan, Sept. 20.]

In Italy, especially at Turin, considerable quantities of acetic acid are obtained in distilling wood for the manufacture of charcoal. The better grades of acetic acid are received from Great Britain. The latest statistical tables published by the Government at Rome show that during the first quarter of 1917 25 tons of pure acetic acid, not exceeding 10 per cent in glacial acetic acid, and valued at 9,000 Italian lire, were exported from Italy, while 21 tons of pure acetic acid, worth 73,000 lire, containing more than 90 per cent of glacial acetic acid, were imported. This product is very largely used in Lombardy, consular district of Milan, in the dyeing trade.

The demand for bichromates is supplied by Italian manufacturers, whose production is almost sufficient to meet the requirements. In fact only insignificant quantities are imported. The Italian producers are in Genoa.

Bleaching Powder, Borax, and Carbolic Acid.

The types of bleaching powder or chloride of lime that are in demand are the 35° grade, British standard, white, used for disinfections, and the 70/75 grade, gray, fused, used in ammunition factories and refrigerating plants. It is imported from Great Britain. During the first quarter of this year 218 tons, worth 33,000 lire, were shipped into Italy.

Borax or borate of sodium is manufactured in Italy, especially at Florence, but some quantities also are imported. During the first quarter of this year 120 tons, worth 81,000 lire, were shipped into Italy.

Carbolic or phenic acid is imported from Great Britain in 50-kilo zinked iron drums, the grades required being 35/37 during the winter months and 39/40 in the other months. As this product is used for making explosives, it is controlled by the Government, and offers will have to be addressed either to the Government at Rome or to its officials in America.

The 76/78 grade of caustic soda has an excellent market, while the demand for the 72/73 grade is limited. It is extensively used here in the soap industry, and there are numerous soap factories in Milan. This product also is to be offered to the Government, as it is employed in the manufacture of munitions. The imports of caustic soda into Italy during the first quarter of 1917 were: From the United States, 2,113 tons; from Great Britain, 1,211 tons; total, 3,324 tons, valued at 2,160,000 lire.

Chlorate of Potash, Citric Acid, and Glycerin.

Chlorate of potash is manufactured in Italy. There is a factory in Legnano in this district. The product is under the Government's control, as it is used in making explosives. Considerable quantities are also imported. Offers are to be made to the Government at Rome or its officials in America.

Italy produces substantial quantities of citric acid and supplies other countries, including the United States. The exports during the first quarter of 1917 amounted to 362 tons, valued at 2,700,000 lire. Almost all the Italian citric acid is produced in Palermo. Being used in the manufacture of explosives, it is under Government control.

Glycerin is obtained here from the distillation of fat acids in the soap industry, but large quantities are also imported. Shipments of glycerin into Italy from January 1 to March 31, 1917, were: From France, 148 tons; from Great Britain, 65 tons; from other countries, 315 tons; total, 528 tons, valued at 1,585,000 lire. Glycerin is controlled by the Government.

Other Chemical Products.

There is no demand for soda ash, inasmuch as, owing to the high freight rates, its price would be so excessive that it is preferable to use caustic soda.

Blue vitriol or sulphate of copper, pure, 99/99½, is largely used for technical treatment of grape vines. Although it is produced in Italy, some quantities also are imported, the United States having supplied 123 tons and Great Britain 25 tons during the first quarter of this year. These imports were valued at 110,000 lire. The proper time for closing contracts is in November and December.

Carbonate of soda, Solvay, 98/100, is in very large demand at present, and dealers here would like to receive offers. Contracts up to 1,000 tons might be closed at once. The imports of carbonate of soda into Italy during the first quarter of 1917 were: From Great Britain, 2,806 tons; from France, 2,101 tons; from the United States, 1,388 tons; total, 6,295 tons, valued at 1,133,000 lire. Offers are desired here also for potassium bromide and senega root.

[A list of firms which deal in chemicals in Milan may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 94345. An article from Florence on the Italian chemical trade was published in COMMERCE REPORTS for July 24, 1917.]

COTTON GINNED IN THE UNITED STATES.

The United States Bureau of the Census reports that 8,559,390 running bales of cotton were ginned from the growth of 1917 prior to November 14, compared with 9,615,003 bales in 1916, and 8,771,275 bales in 1915. In these statistics round bales are counted as half bales and linters are excluded. The figures include 152,527 round bales for 1917, 168,575 for 1916, 82,312 for 1915. The number of sea-island bales included is 68,161 for 1917, 92,909 for 1916, and 68,941 for 1915. The distribution of sea-island for 1917 by States is: Florida, 30,553; Georgia, 34,647; and South Carolina, 2,961. The corrected statistics of the quantity of cotton ginned this season prior to November 1 show a total of 7,182,674 bales.

OFFICES OF THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE.

DISTRICT OFFICES.

NEW YORK: 784 Customhouse.
BOSTON: 1801 Customhouse.
CHICAGO: 504 Federal Building.
ST. LOUIS: 402 Third National Bank Building.
NEW ORLEANS: 1020 Hibernia Bank Building.
SAN FRANCISCO: 807 Customhouse.
SEATTLE: 848 Henry Building.

COOPERATIVE OFFICES.

CLEVELAND: Chamber of Commerce.
CINCINNATI: Chamber of Commerce.
CINCINNATI: General Freight Agent, Southern Railway, 96 Ingalls Building.
LOS ANGELES: Chamber of Commerce.
PHILADELPHIA: Chamber of Commerce.
CHATTANOOGA: South American Agent, Southern Railway System.
DAYTON: Greater Dayton Association.
PORTLAND, OREG.: Chamber of Commerce.

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the Bureau and its district and cooperative offices. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and state opportunity number. The Bureau does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases. Symbols: * Reported by American consular officers; † Reported by commercial attachés and commercial agents; ‡ Direct inquiries received by the Bureau.

In considering the following "opportunities" special regard should be had to the laws and regulations governing export licenses and trading with the enemy.

Agricultural machinery-----	25802, 25897	Incubators-----	25898
Baling wire-----	25894	Machinery-----	25891, 25893, 25897
Boots and shoes-----	25899	Paints-----	25894
Brushes-----	25894	Paper and paper bags-----	25894
Confectionery-----	25894, 25895	Polishes-----	25894
Cutlery-----	25894	Ship fittings-----	25891
Fertilizers-----	25896	Stationery-----	25894
Groceries and provisions-----	25894	Sulphate of ammonia-----	25896
Hardware-----	25897, 25900	Toilet articles and soap-----	25894
Horse and mule shoes-----	25894	Tools-----	25897
Household articles-----	25897	Trucks-----	25892

25891.*—A firm in Canada desires to purchase or secure an agency for the sale of fittings for wooden ships, such as bolts, angle irons, brass fittings, pumps, compasses, chronometers; and machinery for shipbuilding plants. Correspondence may be in English.

25892.†—A man in France wishes to buy or secure an agency for the sale of autotrucks, farm tractors, and general agricultural machinery. Correspondence should be in French. References.

25893.*—A firm in Switzerland desires to purchase delicate and fine machinery, screw-cutting machines, etc. It also wishes to entertain an agency proposition. Correspondence may be in English, but French is preferred. References.

25894.*—A company in South Africa is in the market for all kinds of food-stuffs, provisions, stationery, toilet articles, cutlery, paper and paper bags, soap, brushes, confectionery, polishes, paints, sugar, milk, groceries, baling wire, and horse and mule shoes. Quotations may be made f. o. b. New York. Payment will be made by letter of credit, or goods will be purchased through New York commission house. Correspondence may be in English. References.

25895.*—A man in Scotland wishes to buy sugar and chocolate wafers in tins, 34 wafers to weigh 1 ounce. Quotations may be made f. o. b. New York. These wafers will be desired in regular shipments. Payment will be made by cash against shipping documents. Reference.

25896.*—An agency is desired by a firm in Spain for the sale of sulphate of ammonia and fertilizers. Payment will be made against shipping documents on receipt of goods. Correspondence should be in Spanish or French. References.

25897.*—A firm in Switzerland wishes to purchase and secure an agency for the sale of machine tools, agricultural machinery, household articles, hardware, garden tools, road tools, building machinery, transport equipments, and machines for contractors, such as concrete mixers, etc. Correspondence may be in English. References.

25898.*—The department of a foreign Government desires to receive catalogues and price lists of electrical incubators with a view of introducing incubators in that country.

25899.*—A man in the Dominican Republic desires to purchase and secure an agency for the sale of boots and shoes, clothing for men, hosiery, and fine cotton dry goods. Quotations should be made f. o. b. New York. Payment will be made by 60-day sight draft. Correspondence may be in English. Reference.

25900.*—An agency is desired by a man in Spain for the sale of hardware for ships, trunks, wagons, construction, carpenters, furniture makers, ironworkers, and jewelers. Correspondence should be in Spanish. References.

NOV 2 1917

PRINCETON COMMERCE REPORTS



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RENEWAL OF FRENCH EMBARGO ON CARBONS.

Carbons for electricity may no longer be exported from France to the United States and allied countries without special license. Consul General Thackara reports from Paris that the permits for such exportation which formerly modified the embargo of December, 1914, affecting these articles has been withdrawn by a ministerial of November 19. Special applications must now be made for permission to export these goods to any country.

CARGO NOW MOVING TO RUSSIA.

The War Trade Board officially authorizes a denial of the report which was given prominent notice in the newspapers under date of November 21, 1917, to the effect that no shipments of supplies will be permitted to go from the United States to Russia. It is mentioned in this connection that cargo is now moving to Russia.

LIMITED MARKET FOR CANNED GOODS IN CHINA.

[Consul General Thomas Sammons, Shanghai, Oct. 26.]

Producers of American canned food products should keep in mind the fact that the Chinese are entering this industry themselves, and that the Taifoong Canned Goods Co., operating in Shanghai, is doing an increasing business. This company is managed by energetic and capable Cantonese Chinese.

The imports of canned fruits, vegetables, etc., into Shanghai, excluding meats, amounted to less than \$120,000 during the past year, being divided as follows: Fruits, \$21,574; jams and jellies, \$34,330; vegetables, \$63,579.

The English communities in the Far East use considerable quantities of jams and jellies, and as a rule they favor British products.

As Shanghai transacts about 45 per cent of the entire trade of China, the total imports of canned fruits, jams, jellies, vegetables, etc., for 1916 would not exceed \$250,000.

THE BRAZILIAN COFFEE SITUATION. •

[Consul General Alfred L. Moreau Gottschalk, Rio de Janeiro, Oct. 23.]

According to the forecasts of those who have the longest technical experience in the business, there is every likelihood that Brazil's coffee crop this year will exceed anything that has ever before been witnessed here. A crop so plentiful as to exceed any former calculation, and, thrown unexpectedly upon a market that is being limited to its narrowest purchasing capacity by war conditions, is something that few coffee men look forward to with anything like optimism. It is expected that the State of Rio de Janeiro alone, which ought normally to average 2,750,000 bags, will, according to present receipts, send in a total of 4,000,000 to 5,000,000 bags for the year. The State of Espirito Santo, which has always kept near the 750,000 mark, will, local coffee experts say, easily reach the 1,000,000-bag total. As for the State of São Paulo, 12,000,000 bags seem to be expected of it, according to present indications.

It is quite natural that a prognostication such as this should create a certain amount of dismay among traders, who realize how unfavorable is the present outlook for disposing of even a normal crop under existing limitations of supplies to neutral nations, and the inaccessibility by freight not only of the Central Empires, which were always heavy customers, but also of former consumers, such as Russia, Greece, and the Balkans. It is hardly to be believed that the increased consumption of the marching armies of the allies and the United States can compensate for all these diminutions in the world's demand.

Fortunately for the trade, the keeping qualities of coffee are good, the bean suffering no deterioration from storage under proper conditions. The general belief here is that there will be considerable hoarding of coffee stocks in the United States against the close of the present war: and that merchants in the United States, therefore, in their desire to do this sort of speculative buying, may assist Brazil in disposing of the enormous harvest that is expected this year. Brazil itself would hardly seem to have the available capital or the staying power to accumulate and to keep the crop in reserve here for some rising market in the distant and uncertain future. The qualities are said to be regular and good in all the coffee that has been coming out of the plantations since last June and July.

WASTE-PAPER COLLECTION IN GLASGOW.[Vice Consul Thomas H. Bevan, Glasgow, Scotland, Oct. 26; see also *COMMERCE REPORTS* for Aug. 17, 1917.]

In 1900 Glasgow established a cleansing department for collecting the city refuse and utilizing waste products. One of the principal branches of this department is devoted to the collection of waste paper. During the past 10 years the city has profited to the extent of nearly \$44,000 from the sale of the waste paper, the revenue from this source in 1907-8 having amounted to \$3,010; in 1908-9, to \$3,120; in 1909-10, to \$4,215; in 1910-11, to \$5,725; in 1911-12, to \$4,765; in 1912-13, to \$2,315; in 1913-14, to \$2,675; in 1914-15, to \$2,950; in 1915-16, to \$1,360; and in 1916-17, to \$13,590.

The collection of waste paper from the city offices, warehouses, and better-class dwellings was originally introduced, apart altogether

from the financial phase, with a view to curbing as far as possible the nuisance inseparable from the removal of paper from the public streets and in order to get hold of the material before it reached the dust bins and ash buckets. Bags for holding the paper, measuring 32 by 40 inches, are issued to business premises, etc., and are called for regularly by employees wearing a departmental armlet. The contents of these bags are emptied into larger receptacles for removal to the paper mills. By means of this system the paper is not only kept off the streets but, being collected separately from the refuse, it forms a marketable commodity and becomes a source of revenue, as set out above.

Women Aid in Collection—No Charge for Service.

In view of the Government's prohibition of the import of wood pulp, and consequent scarcity and increased value of waste paper, steps have been taken by the local city officials to collect waste paper on a much more extensive scale, even to the extent of salving all material picked out of the refuse at the various city garbage plants. The department is receiving valuable assistance from an organization known as the Women's Volunteer Reserve, the members of which engage in a door-to-door collection in certain districts of the city. In return for the services thus rendered the organization receives 20 per cent of the revenue derived from the paper so collected. An effort is also being made to reach the dwellings of the working classes through the medium of the school boards and pupils.

The service in this city is absolutely free. No charge is made for the use of the bags or for carting the paper away. All waste paper is sold, at Government-controlled prices, to paper-stock merchants in the condition in which it is collected. The total quantity collected and sold during the past fiscal year was 835 tons, the revenue realized therefrom amounting, as stated, to \$13,590. It is interesting to note that about ten times as much paper was collected during the past fiscal year as during the preceding one. For the first three months of the current financial year 342 tons were collected, with a total value of \$11,155. It is reliably estimated that the total value of the paper collected during the present financial year will reach \$50,000.

MANUFACTURE OF DRUGS IN SWEDEN.

[Vice Consul Arthur E. J. Reilly, Stockholm, Oct. 22.]

Sweden hitherto has had to depend upon other countries for its drugs. During the war, however, a domestic manufacture has been started which seems promising. This work has been taken up especially by AB. Astra, the apothecaries' chemical work at Södertälje. The output comprises a number of standard preparations, such as phenol, salicylic acid, salicylated natron, acetylic salicylic acid, phenacetin, and saccharin. Great extensions of the company's workshops have become necessary for this purpose.

Increased Customs Receipts at Moncton for October.

Consul E. Verne Richardson reports from Moncton, Canada, that the receipts of the Moncton customhouse for the month of October totaled \$33,943, compared with \$11,110 for the corresponding month in 1916 and \$8,958 in 1915.

ARGENTINE WOOL EXPORTS.

[Consul General W. Henry Robertson, Buenos Aires, Oct. 16.]

The following extract from the Review of the River Plate shows Argentina's wool shipments to foreign countries for the past 10 seasons. The wool year here runs from October 1 to September 30. Up to 1902, the average weight of the bales ranged from 450 to 500 kilos (992 to 1,102 pounds), but since then they have been from 400 to 420 kilos (882 to 926 pounds).

Exported to—	1907-8	1908-9	1909-10	1910-11	1911-12	1912-13	1913-14	1914-15	1915-16	1916-17
	<i>Bales.</i>	<i>Bales.</i>	<i>Bales.</i>	<i>Bales.</i>	<i>Bales.</i>	<i>Bales.</i>	<i>Bales.</i>	<i>Bales.</i>	<i>Bales.</i>	<i>Bales.</i>
United States.....	21,657	45,217	24,536	18,565	32,596	25,876	34,779	103,070	152,390	225,467
Austria: Trieste.....					5,578	5,362	5,881			
Belgium: Antwerp.....	59,243	46,098	39,188	41,713	40,121	30,668	30,723			
France:										
Bordeaux.....	368	715	1,438	1,161		642	367	33,285	14,879	24,347
Dunkirk.....	140,610	181,586	120,614	133,788	91,555	64,765	72,581	100	1	
Havre.....	3,831	2,099	3,522	2,611	2,291	4,287	7,384	1,793	11,501	9,577
Marseille.....	66	764	210	2,187	1,996	338	1,573	12,472	6,908	3,581
Germany:										
Bremen.....	13,076	16,854	19,052	14,567	19,010	10,175	19,021			
Hamburg.....	83,855	78,329	94,514	83,359	102,470	98,062	66,172			
Mulhouse.....	6,296	5,478	2,863	4,218	3,958	3,149	1,931			
Italy: Genoa.....	3,120	4,722	4,451	4,034	6,066	6,063	3,120	47,672	41,491	32,288
Netherlands.....	558			3,329	2,391	2,637	2,678	9,637	11,697	7,517
Spain: Barcelona.....		50	1	10	79	186	30	8,189	7,002	3,637
United Kingdom.....	46,809	58,607	37,650	59,278	46,871	63,274	43,255	77,319	32,098	23,988
Other countries.....	4,877	6,292	8,363	8,605	2,348	390	6,141	11,020	21,305	9,222
Total.....	384,365	447,372	356,402	382,403	355,428	310,933	305,606	304,517	299,207	349,622

Outlook for New Season Favorable.

According to an article in the Buenos Aires Herald, the wool season that ended on September 30 must be considered one of the most important this country has seen, as the shipments (349,622 bales) were the largest of the last five years. Two-thirds of last year's clip were acquired by the United States; France was the second best buyer. In the preceding season Italy occupied second place.

The purchases of other countries did not change much this season, although there was a falling off in the cargoes sent to neutral ports. Both Spain and Holland took much smaller quantities than in the preceding season, and the exports to "various places" amounted to only 9,222 bales, as compared with 21,305 bales in 1915-16. This decline in shipments to neutral countries was due largely to political pressure, but must be attributed in part to the extraordinarily high prices of the year, which, without doubt, caused a restriction in consumption.

The prospect for the new season is even brighter than the outlook at the beginning of last season, as the clip will amount, more or less, to the same figures, while the quality is much better, which leads many dealers to believe that prices will be even higher this year than last.

A Swedish Mill for the Manufacture of Crucibles.

Vice Consul Arthur E. J. Reilly, reports from Stockholm, Sweden, that a mill recently began the manufacture of crucibles for metal and steel at Hellby near Eskilstuna. The mill which is the only one of its kind in Scandinavia, is intended for a production of 1,000 crucibles per day, of which about two-thirds are intended for exportation.

CONSTRUCTION WORK.**DOMINICAN REPUBLIC.**

[Consul Arthur McLean, Puerto Plata, Oct. 19.]

Building of New Hospitals.

The municipal hospital of Ricardo Limardo, which was recently opened in Puerto Plata, is the first hospital to be started in this consular district, which comprises the northern half of the Dominican Republic. The new hospital occupies a handsome two-story building of concrete. It has a well-equipped laboratory and operating room, and it is the intention of the directors to erect in the near future two additional buildings, one to be used as a maternity ward and the other for contagious diseases. A training school for nurses is planned in connection with the hospital, for which the superintendent has already been brought from Porto Rico.

The "San Rafael Hospital" in Santiago de los Caballeros, consisting of three concrete buildings, is rapidly nearing completion.

The town of La Vega is also commencing the erection of a new municipal hospital.

The funds for the construction and maintenance of these hospitals are secured from public lotteries, the municipalities, and through public subscriptions.

GUADELOUPE.

[Consul Henry T. Wilcox, Guadeloupe, French West Indies, Oct. 26.]

Proposed Electric Railways.

An application has been made to the Legislative Council of the colony for a 75-year franchise to cover the building and operation of electric railways in the colony as well as the control of two waterfalls which will furnish sufficient power for the enterprise.

The total length of the lines, as proposed, will be about 190 kilometers (118 miles). The track will be narrow gauge (1 meter), and provisions will be made for the carrying of passengers, baggage, mail, and freight. No subsidy is requested by the promoter, but in order to attract the necessary capital he has asked the Government to agree to pay annually a sum sufficient to assure profits of 10 per cent in case they should fall short of that amount.

If the administration agrees to the proposed terms and grants the franchise, the work on the line from Basse Terre to Pointe-a-Pitre, via St. Claude and five other villages, will commence as soon as possible. The present wagon road between the two cities, which will be followed by the railway, is 70 kilometers (43½ miles) in length and at least half of it runs through mountainous country. It is estimated that the cost of the complete installation of this first line will be in the neighborhood of 2,500,000 francs (about \$480,000).

[The names and addresses of the promoter and of the French firm of engineers with whom he is associated can be obtained at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district or cooperative offices by referring to file No. 94925.]

IRELAND.

[Vice Consul C. C. Bray, Dublin, Oct. 18.]

Rebuilding Operations in Dublin.

The city architect of Dublin has recently made a statement as to the progress in rebuilding the area in Dublin destroyed in April,

1916, from which it appears that since the passing of the Dublin reconstruction act about nine months ago, plans for the rebuilding of 87 premises have been deposited with him. Of this total 70 designs have been officially approved, 13 of the premises begun in this period have been completed, and 44 are at present making progress. Few of these, however, are in Sackville Street, the principal thoroughfare that suffered. The architect states, however, that plans had been approved by him for important buildings at the four corners where Sackville and Abbey Streets intersect. Both the new Hibernian Bank and the new Munster and Loinsster Bank at the corner of Lower Abbey and Lower Sackville Streets are to be executed entirely in cut stone, as are also the new premises of Messrs. Mansfield. A new building for Messrs. Elvery is to be constructed chiefly of cut stone. These last two buildings are to be erected at the corner of Middle Abbey and Lower Sackville Streets.

Other Undertakings.

Designs for the Dublin Bread Co., and for the Metropole Hotel have been submitted and approved. The working plans for these latter have not, however, been deposited with the corporation and there is little prospect that work will begin immediately.

The designs for the premises of Messrs Clery and Co. have been prepared, but the working drawings are not yet deposited. No plans have been definitely submitted for the rebuilding of Messrs. Hopkins & Hopkins. The site of this firm at the corner of Sackville Street and Eden Quay is considered one of the most important in the destroyed area.

Among the important premises in progress are those for Messrs. Eason & Co., which will have a frontage of about 80 feet to Abbey Street and about 40 feet to Lower Sackville Street. They are to be faced with cut stone and to form part of the same block in which the site of the Hotel Metropole is situated.

Referring to the present cost of building and the difficulty in obtaining supplies of timber and steel and other building materials, the architect considers the progress made during the nine months fairly satisfactory and adds that there is every indication that progress will be still more rapid. He notes that the Government has not indicated its intentions as yet regarding the restoration of the post-office building.

[A previous report on building operations in Dublin was published in COMMERCE REPORTS for Nov. 17, 1916. A list of buildings the plans for which have been approved and buildings in process of construction can be examined at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district offices. Refer to file No. 94766.]

VENEZUELA.

[Consul Frank Anderson Henry, Puerto Cabello, Oct. 31.]

Hydroelectric Developments in the Puerto Cabello District.

The prevailing scarcity and high prices of fuel have given a decided impetus to hydroelectric developments in this district and several plans for the utilization of conveniently located waterfalls are receiving careful consideration. The principal projects concerning which the writer has information are the following:

The South American Copper Syndicate has for years been operating at Aroa, State of Yaracuy, the only producing copper mines of importance in Venezuela. Plans have been made for extensive changes and additions to the capacity of the smelters at the mines which will enable the output to be shipped in the form of matte, or perhaps blister copper, instead of ore bearing $6\frac{1}{2}$ per cent copper, as at present. This will necessitate large additional power, which is to be secured by increasing the present small hydroelectric installation to about 800 horsepower.

It is understood that the plans, both technical and financial, for carrying out these improvements have already been completed and that work will be commenced as soon as the necessary materials can be obtained. The general manager of the company is now in the United States for the purpose of making all necessary purchases [and his address can be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district or cooperative offices by referring to file No. 94961].

Electric Plant for San Felipe.

Messrs. J. C. Prince and Co. of San Felipe have a 25-year contract for furnishing electric light to that municipality which contract is renewable for a like period. The capital of the company will be 275,000 bolivars (about \$53,000). San Felipe, a town of about 5,000 inhabitants, is the capital of the State of Yaracuy and is the terminus of a branch of the Bolivar Railroad.

A contract has been made with a firm of American engineers in Caracas for the machinery, installation, and delivery of the plant in working order. Power will be obtained from the Yurubi River and it is expected that 150 horsepower will be developed. This will be sufficient not only for the lighting of San Felipe but of small neighboring villages as well which can be connected by short transmission lines. During the day there will be power available which should encourage small industries such as grain mills, coffee cleaning establishment, sawmills, etc.

Hydroelectric Project for Barquisimeto and Yaritagua.

It is contemplated to furnish Barquisimeto and Yaritagua with electricity generated by a large waterfall near the latter city. It is still in the formative stage and it is understood that no definite arrangements of any kind have been made as yet. It is looked upon as certain, however, that such a plan will be carried out in the future as the advantages are obvious.

Barquisimeto is the capital of the State of Lara and is one of the largest cities in Venezuela, having a population of more than 25,000. It has already an electric-light plant designed to use anthracite as fuel in connection with producer gas and internal combustion engines. Current is only supplied at night and the cost of anthracite has become so high that charcoal is being substituted for it to a certain extent. The true solution of the problem would be to utilize the cheap source of power presented by the waterfall near Yaritagua.

[The name of the party interested in the hydroelectric project for Barquisimeto and Yaritagua can be obtained at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district or cooperative offices by referring to file No. 94961a.]

DEPOSITS IN THE WORLD'S LEADING BANKS.

In its November 3 issue the Statist (London, England) presents its customary annual review of the international banking situation, giving, among other data, the following statement, comprising those banking institutions whose deposits and current accounts exceeded £20,000,000 at the close of 1916:

Banks.	Deposits and current accounts.	
	1910	1916
1. State Bank of Russia.....	£37,971,000	£265,333,000
2. Imperial Bank of Germany.....	8,663,000	233,355,000
3. Bank of England.....	33,892,000	178,965,000
4. Deutsche Bank.....	3,215,000	175,100,000
5. London City and Midland Bank.....	2,227,000	174,621,000
6. Lloyds Bank.....	5,795,000	151,368,000
7. National City Bank, New York.....	3,249,000	125,825,000
8. London County and Westminster.....		120,368,000
9. Banque Russo-Asiatique.....		117,927,000
10. Barclay's Bank.....		107,170,000
11. Russian Bank for Foreign Trade.....	2,055,000	102,115,000
12. Guaranty Trust Co. of New York.....		100,385,000
13. National Provincial Bank of England.....	29,138,000	100,219,000
14. Bank of France.....	25,011,000	89,967,000
15. Dresdner Bank.....	4,752,000	87,991,000
16. Direction der Disconto-Gesellschaft.....	3,228,000	82,229,000
17. Volga-Kama Commercial Bank.....	5,085,000	81,277,000
18. Credit Lyonnais.....	16,484,000	80,682,000
19. Oesterreichische Credit-Anstalt.....	6,920,000	77,420,000
20. National Bank of Commerce, New York.....	3,446,000	70,557,000
21. Banco de la Nacion Argentina.....		65,970,000
22. Parr's Bank.....	3,137,000	63,100,000
23. Commercial Bank of Siberia.....		60,217,000
24. Bank of Montreal.....		60,214,000
25. Banque Internationale de Commerce de Petrograd.....	1,604,000	59,806,000
26. Russian Commercial and Industrial Bank.....		57,279,000
27. Bankers' Trust Co., New York.....		56,927,000
28. Union of London and Smith's Bank.....	13,358,000	56,236,000
29. Continental and Commercial National Bank, Chicago.....		54,606,000
30. Chase National Bank, New York.....		53,429,000
31. Comptoir National d'Escompte de Paris.....		51,189,000
32. Capital and Counties Bank.....	3,445,000	52,286,000
33. First National Bank, New York.....	3,272,000	52,013,000
34. London Joint Stock Bank.....	12,645,000	49,878,000
35. Banca Commerciale Italiana.....		48,612,000
36. Darmstadter Bank.....	1,457,000	48,490,000
37. Bank of New South Wales.....	9,639,000	46,899,577
38. Canadian Bank of Commerce.....	2,318,000	46,417,000
39. Bank of Spain.....	23,751,000	46,043,000
40. Société Générale (Paris).....	13,353,000	44,738,000
41. Oesterreichische Länderbank.....	1,522,000	44,736,000
42. Central Trust Co., New York.....	1,054,000	42,007,000
43. Credito Italiano.....		41,675,000
44. Royal Bank of Canada.....		40,141,000
45. Hanover National Bank, New York.....	1,920,000	39,334,000
46. Bank of Japan.....		38,022,000
47. Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation.....	4,726,000	37,830,000
48. Mechanics & Metals National Bank.....		37,219,000
49. First National Bank, Chicago.....	2,654,000	35,398,000
50. Manchester and Liverpool District Bank.....	10,325,000	35,347,000
51. Banca d'Italia.....		34,637,000
52. Farmers' Loan & Trust Co., New York.....	2,091,000	33,773,000
53. Bank of Liverpool.....	3,052,000	33,320,000
54. Equitable Trust Co. of New York.....		32,385,000
55. Bank of New Zealand.....	8,967,000	31,081,000
56. London and South Western Bank.....	1,787,000	30,632,000
57. London and Provincial Bank.....	2,694,000	30,513,000
58. Société Générale de Belgique.....	17,700,000	30,448,000
59. National Bank of South Africa.....		28,080,000
60. Standard Bank of South Africa.....	4,082,000	28,688,000
61. Chartered Bank of India, Australia, and China.....	8,115,000	28,014,000
62. First National Bank, Boston.....	1,000	27,397,000
63. Bank of Scotland (Feb. 28, 1917).....	12,508,000	27,161,000
64. Yokohama Specie Bank.....		26,000,000
65. Union Bank of Australia (Ltd.).....	6,707,000	25,104,000
66. National Shawmut Bank, Boston.....		25,000,000

Banks.	Deposits and current accounts.	
	1880	1916
67. Old Colony Trust Co., Boston		£25,595,000
68. Williams Peacon's Bank		24,488,000
69. Commercial Banking Co. of Sydney	£5,467,000	24,397,000
70. National Bank of Scotland	12,335,000	24,002,000
71. Commercial Bank of Scotland		23,346,000
72. Clydesdale Bank	7,378,000	23,289,000
73. Banco Espanol del Rio de La Plata		22,643,000
74. Royal Bank of Scotland	1,587,000	22,490,000
75. American Exchange National Bank, New York	1,106,000	22,268,000
76. Swiss Bank Corporation		22,096,000
77. London and River Plate Bank	2,849,000	22,033,000
78. Irving National Bank		21,442,000
79. Illinois Trust and Savings Bank	147,000	21,360,000
80. Banco do Brasil		21,143,000
81. Nederlandsche Handel-Maatschappij		21,044,000
82. Corn Exchange National Bank, Chicago		21,041,000
83. National Bank of India	3,287,000	20,898,000
84. Glyn, Mills, Currie & Co.		20,120,000

CLOSE WATCH ON GERMAN TRADE PREPARATIONS.

German preparations for trade after the war are being scrutinized carefully by experts in the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, and the recent important report on the subject of "German Foreign-Trade Organization," by Chauncey D. Snow, which touched on this point, has been in such great demand as to establish a new sales record for Government trade reports.

Since the war eliminated Germany from world trade, the United States has improved its position in foreign markets in spite of the shipping shortage and other abnormal restrictive factors. Department officials point out that the future prosperity of the country will depend in part on Germany's loss of good will in practically all foreign markets and in part upon American ability to maintain our new prestige. American business must not make the mistake of seeing only one side of this situation and thus underestimating the German capacity for foreign trade or the energy, application, and craft with which German business will address itself to the task of regaining favor in markets in which it once prospered.

In order to understand the significance of the information on German trade moves that will from time to time be made public, Secretary Redfield counsels not imitation of but familiarity with the German theories of foreign trade and the artful and formidable organization that, with Government aid at every turn, has been built up in Germany during the last twenty years to dominate the world's markets. It was to meet the demand for such information that the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce issued the bulletin on "German Foreign-Trade Organization." The unprecedented demand for it is taken as an indication that the American manufacturer is making after-war preparations of his own.

The Bureau now plans to get out about the first of the year a supplementary bulletin on German trade and preparations for the commercial future, and further supplements will be issued as rapidly as important additional information is received.

NEW LAWS AID PHILIPPINE DEVELOPMENT.

[J. F. Boomer, correspondent, Manila, Sept. 24.]

Several laws which have been enacted by the Philippine Legislature during the past year are of commercial interest. These included franchise measures, acts intended to be of value in financing operations of certain important enterprises, those for the encouragement of municipal works, support for the development of mineral and industrial resources, insurance of work animals, extension of the tobacco industry, and several measures for the benefit of foreign commerce.

Franchises for Certain Public Utilities.

(1) Several franchises were granted to persons and corporations for the establishment and operation of certain public utilities in different parts of the islands. By Act 2701, La Electrica, a commercial association of the municipality of Dumaguete, Occidental Negros, was granted a franchise for 50 years to install, operate, and maintain an electric light, heat, and power system in the municipality of Dumaguete.

Act 2687 amends Act 2485, by which Vicente Sotelo y Matti, of the city of Manila, was granted a franchise to construct, equip, operate, and maintain a railroad in the southern part of the Island of Negros. The amendment extends the time within which work must be begun to December 31, 1919.

Act 2690 amends Act 2644, by which Eusebio Diaz Cacitas was granted a franchise to install, operate, and maintain an electric light, heat, and power system in the municipality of Tobaco, Albay Province, by extending the time limits. The grantee may file his acceptance within 18 months and commence work within 24 months.

Act 2700 grants to J. V. House, of Tacloban, Province of Leyte, a franchise to install, operate, and maintain an electric light, heat, and power plant in the municipality of Tacloban. The grantee is obliged to file his acceptance within 90 days after the passage of the act, and commence work within 6 months after the date of his acceptance. The franchise is for 50 years.

Provisions Regarding Certain Loans.

(2) Two acts were passed with a view to assisting certain public utilities which are now operated in the islands. Act 2698 fixes a lower rate of interest on, and extends the time for payment of, certain Government loans to the Manila Railroad Co. The loans were made to the company to complete sections of railroad on the Lucena-Pagbilao, Ragay North and South, Legaspi-Tobaco, and Legaspi-Nueva Caceres lines. It is provided that the interest on the loans shall be not less than 3 per cent per annum, and the time for total payment shall not exceed six months from the date of the issue of the bonds of the corresponding 20-mile section, and in no case exceed 30 months from the date of the loan. The loans are secured by approved pignorative guaranties furnished by the company, and it is provided that bonds covering each 20-mile section may be issued as they are completed for the redemption of the loans.

Act 2699 authorizes the Insular Treasurer, upon the order of the Secretary of Finance and with the approval of the Governor General, to loan to the Manila Railroad Co. for a period not exceeding 10

years the sum of 2,000,000 pesos (\$1,000,000), the loan to be secured by the bonds of the company at 3 per cent per annum. The loan is made for the purpose of creating an operating fund for the company, and also for expenditures for repairs, acquisition of equipment, and the construction and development of its properties. It is further guaranteed by being made a lien upon the property of the company, subject to any existing prior liens.

Bond Issue for Public Works.

(3) Act 2688 takes advantage of the provision of section 11 of the Jones Act, which authorizes the local legislature to legalize bond issues within certain restrictions and authorizes the municipality of Iloilo to issue bonds to the amount of \$250,000 for the construction of a water and sewer system and the erection of buildings for public primary schools within the municipality. The bonds bear interest at the rate of 4 per cent per annum, payable quarterly; are redeemable at the pleasure of the municipality at any time after 10 years, and are payable 30 years after date of issue. Both the principal and interest are payable in gold coin at the Treasury of the United States. The bonds are in denominations of \$1,000 to \$10,000 and are exempt from all taxation by the United States Government, the Philippine Government, or any political or municipal subdivision thereof, or the government of any State or Territory of the United States, or of any political or municipal subdivision thereof, or by the District of Columbia. The Secretary of War is authorized to sell them, and the proceeds are to be placed in the Treasury of the Philippine Islands to the credit of the public-works bond issue of the municipality of Iloilo. The act also makes provision for a sinking fund.

To Develop Mineral and Industrial Resources.

(4) Several laws aim at assisting in the development of various mineral and industrial resources of the Philippine Islands. Act 2705 creates what is termed the National Coal Co., with headquarters in the city of Manila. Its franchise is for 50 years. The capital stock is 3,000,000 pesos (\$1,500,000), divided into 30,000 shares of a par value of 100 pesos (\$50) each. The Governor General is directed to subscribe for 51 per cent of the capital stock on behalf of the Government of the Philippine Islands, the remainder to be offered to private purchasers in a public manner. Ten per cent of all subscriptions are payable at the time of subscribing, the remainder to be paid at such time as the board of directors shall determine. The same act appropriated sufficient public funds to pay for the 51 per cent of the stock of the corporation. This company was organized last June, and is now engaged in the examination of certain coal lands on the Island of Mindanao. Its directors are Vicente Madrigal, C. H. French, the insular auditor, Dalmacio Costas, Milton E. Springer, and Rafael Corpus. All communications should be addressed to the National Coal Co., Manila, P. I.

Act 2719 provides for the disposition of the coal-bearing lands of the public domain. The Government reserves its right to such coal deposits as may exist on public lands granted or reserved for the use of any provincial, municipal, or private corporations or persons. The Secretary of Agriculture and Natural Resources is authorized to lease unappropriated coal-bearing lands of the public domain in

blocks or tracts of not less than 400 hectares or more than 1,200 hectares (hectare = 2.47 acres) in such manner as that official shall think will allow the economic exploitation of the coal. Such leases may be granted to citizens of the United States or of the Philippine Islands, or associations formed of such persons, or corporations organized under the laws of the Philippine Islands, provided that at all times a majority of the stock of any such corporation shall be owned and held by citizens of the United States or of the Philippine Islands. Under this section the Secretary of Agriculture and Natural Resources is authorized to secure the surrender of any coal-bearing lands held by private individuals or corporations in exchange for such leases as have been described, and by other compensations.

Royalty on Coal and Yearly Rental.

These leases give the Government certain supervisory control of the domain leased and call for a royalty on the coal mined, to be fixed in each lease, but not to be less than 10 centavos (5 cents) per ton of 1,016 kilos (kilo=2.2 pounds). They also call for a yearly rental, payable in advance, of ₱2.50 (\$1.25) per hectare for the first year and ₱5 (\$2.50) per hectare each year thereafter. It is provided, however, that such rental for any year shall be credited against the royalties as they accrue for that year. No one person or corporation shall hold any interest in more than one such lease, on the penalty of such interest being forfeited to the Government by appropriate proceeding. Certain penalties are provided and a criminal proceeding is prescribed for anyone either knowingly acquiring an interest in two or more such leases or knowingly selling an interest to one disqualified to purchase such interest. Provisions are also made to prevent the spirit of the act being violated by subleases. It is provided, however, that a person or corporation holding such a lease as has been described may also acquire a license or permit to prospect for, mine, and dispose of coal belonging to the Government on specified tracts of not exceeding 4 hectares to any one person or association in any one coal field for a period not to exceed 10 years without the payment of royalty on the coal mined or of rental on the land occupied, subject to rules and regulations to be fixed by the Secretary of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

This act also imposes a tax of ₱2,000 (\$1,000) upon each block of 400 hectares or fraction thereof of coal lands owned by any private person, firm, association, or corporation, payable annually, and a tax of 4 centavos (2 cents) per ton of 1,016 kilos on each ton of coal extracted from such privately owned mines.

Lands in Province of Mindoro.

Act 2720 authorizes George H. Fairchild to organize a corporation under the laws of the Philippine Islands or of the United States or some State thereof for the purpose of acquiring and holding for not more than 30 years certain lands in the Province of Mindoro. These lands are the San Jose estate, heretofore owned and operated by Welch, Fairchild & Co. The corporation is to acquire and hold the land for the purpose of subdividing the approximately 23,000 hectares of the tract into tracts not exceeding 400 hectares in area, irrigating these smaller tracts and selling them to other persons,

associations, or corporations after the land shall have been broken out and prepared for cultivation by the holding corporation. This corporation is authorized to charge enough for the lands when sold to cover the cost of preparing them for sale plus reasonable interest on the capital invested. The corporation has been organized and work is proceeding along the lines laid down in the act.

(5) Act 2694 amended Act 2307 as amended by Act 2362, by abolishing the Board of Public Utility Commissioners and substituting therefor the office of Public Utility Commissioner with the powers and duties formerly vested in the board.

(6) Act 2682 remodels the law formerly enacted creating an association for the mutual insurance of work animals. This act vests the management of the association in an insurance board consisting of the Director of Agriculture and two citizens of the Philippine Islands, one of whom shall be interested in agriculture and the other in cattle breeding. The insular treasurer is made treasurer of the association. Inquiries concerning this system of insurance should be addressed to the Director of Agriculture, Manila, P. I.

Act 2679 appropriates \$125,000 for carrying out the plan of combating rinderpest among carabaos and cattle. The administration of this fund and the carrying out of the campaign are under the control of the Director of Agriculture, Manila, P. I.

Machines for Cleaning Maguey Fiber.

Act 2696 appropriates \$17,500 for the purchase and operation for one year, and the expenses of installation, of two machines for cleaning maguey fiber. These have been purchased in the United States.

(7) Two acts intended to stimulate the tobacco industry in the Philippines were passed. Act 2692 appropriates \$17,500 to form part of the tobacco-inspection fund provided for in Act 2613, of which it is provided that \$3,500 shall be set aside for propaganda for leaf tobacco in the United States and in other countries where it is deemed necessary, and \$14,000 for inspection in connection with the cultivation of tobacco in the northern Provinces of Luzon. Act 2713 amends Act 2613 making it unlawful for any planter or other person who has in his possession uncured or incompletely cured leaf tobacco, to cure, dry, ferment, or treat it in any manner other than in a building or curing shed constructed in accordance with the specifications of the Bureau of Agriculture. Those who produce tobacco on a small scale are exempted from the provisions of this act, and the Director of Agriculture is authorized by executive action to exempt the planters of any given locality from the operation of this act until January 1, 1919, provided it is clearly shown that it is impossible for the planters concerned to comply with the provisions of the law, on account of the distance of their plantations from the public forests, or for other good cause shown. This act authorizes the Director of Forestry, for the period of three years, to give and issue to any producer of tobacco a license to cut, without charge, timber of the first group to be used exclusively in the construction of standard warehouses for the curing of tobacco.

Measures Affecting Foreign Commerce.

(8) Three other acts are of special interest to foreign commerce. Act 2681 creates a new port of entry in the Province of Pangasinan,

in the municipality of Sual. At the same time a new customs district is constituted, consisting of the Provinces of Pangasinan and La Union, to be known as the District of Pangasinan.

Act 2680 amends Act 2342, an act regulating the labeling, sale, and advertising of patent and proprietary medicines, or fraudulent therapeutic appliances and devices. This amendment provides that it shall be unlawful to import, sell, or offer for sale any preparation, whether a simple substance or of compound substances, for the prevention, alleviation, or cure of human ailments unless a qualitatively and quantitatively correct description of the principal drugs and toxic substances to which the preparation owes its action, expressed in the language, descriptions, and abbreviations used in the United States Pharmacopœia or other accepted pharmacopœias or formulas, appears plainly and legibly on the bottle, label, or package immediately containing the preparation, in such wise that it shall reach the purchaser at each and every purchase. It is further provided that in case any nonofficial drug or substance is used in the preparation, it shall be plainly described under its ordinary name or customary chemical term, and not by "any fancy or proprietary name."

Duty of Importers and Manufacturers.

It is made the duty of every importer and manufacturer of any such preparations forthwith to furnish the Bureau of Science with a specimen of the preparation as it is to be exhibited for sale, and immediately upon receipt of it the bureau is required to analyze it. If the analysis discloses that the preparation is fraudulent in respect to the statement on the bottle, label, or package of the principal drugs and toxic substances to the extent of its being liable to mislead and cause injury, the Director of Science will inform the importer or manufacturer, and thereafter it will be unlawful to have such preparation in possession except for such time as shall be necessary to re-export it. An appeal is allowed from the decision of the Director of Science to a technical board consisting of a physician and two qualified pharmacists, to be appointed by the Director of Science.

Joint resolution No. 4, approved by the legislature at its last session, is a petition to the President of the United States and Congress, asking that the tariff laws of the United States be so amended as to give the products of the Philippine Islands the same privileges in the markets of the United States as the products of the United States enjoy in the Philippine markets.

OFFICES OF THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE.

DISTRICT OFFICES.

NEW YORK: 734 Customhouse.
BOSTON: 1801 Customhouse.
CHICAGO: 504 Federal Building.
ST. LOUIS: 402 Third National Bank Building.
NEW ORLEANS: 1020 Hibernia Bank Building.
SAN FRANCISCO: 307 Customhouse.
SEATTLE: 848 Henry Building.

COOPERATIVE OFFICES.

CLEVELAND: Chamber of Commerce.
CINCINNATI: Chamber of Commerce.
CINCINNATI: General Freight Agent, Southern Railway, 96 Ingalls Building.
LOS ANGELES: Chamber of Commerce.
PHILADELPHIA: Chamber of Commerce.
CHATTANOOGA: South American Agent, Southern Railway System.
PORTLAND, OREG.: Chamber of Commerce.
DAYTON: Greater Dayton Association.

AMERICAN COTTON SEED AND COTTONSEED PRODUCTS.

The quantity of cotton seed received at the mills in the United States during the period from August 1 to October 31, 1917, as shown by the records of the Bureau of the Census, was 1,691,916 tons, and the quantity crushed in that period was 829,549 tons. The quantity on hand October 31 was 896,294 tons. Quantities of cottonseed products manufactured, shipped out, and on hand were:

Items.	On hand Aug. 1.	Produced Aug. 1 to Oct. 31.	Shipped out Aug. 1 to Oct. 31.	On hand Oct. 31.
Crude oil.....pounds..	a 15,477,352	248,027,603	200,527,732	a 91,806,846
Refined oil.....do..	b 298,757,126	c 146,610,755	.....	b 96,795,184
Cake and meal.....tons..	92,540	399,411	330,363	181,588
Hull.....do..	56,016	191,560	169,268	78,808
Linters.....500-pound bales..	103,754	204,176	125,013	d 195,519
Hull fiber.....do..	6,371	62,624	60,973	d 8,205
Motes, grabbats, and sweepings.....do..	8,207	7,546	3,138	d 13,131

a Includes 2,918,450 and 3,175,468 pounds held by refining and manufacturing establishments and 3,371,700 and 31,947,455 pounds in transit to refiners and consumers Aug. 1 and Oct. 31, respectively.

b Includes 15,270,429 and 11,935,016 pounds held by refiners, brokers, agents, and warehousemen at places other than refineries and manufacturing establishments and 3,851,445 and 8,283,375 pounds in transit to manufacturers of lard substitute, oleomargarine, soap, etc., Aug. 1 and Oct. 31, respectively.

c Produced from 161,317,578 pounds crude oil.

d Includes 13,592 bales of linters, 183 bales of hull fiber, and 516 bales of motes, grabbats, and sweepings stored elsewhere than at the mills.

PROPOSALS FOR GOVERNMENT SUPPLIES AND CONSTRUCTION.

[Correspondence should be direct with the offices named, and specifications and other information can usually be obtained at the points where the goods are to be delivered or the work is to be performed. In cases where the time limit is too short to permit firms to submit tenders, they should ask to be placed on the mailing lists of such offices to receive notices calling for future supplies or work of a similar nature.]

Cranes, No. 4927.—Sealed proposals will be received by the Bureau of Yards and Docks, Navy Department, Washington, D. C., until December 10, 1917, for providing and installing on the runway rails two 6-ton, 2-trolley, 5-motor bridge traveling cranes and one 3-ton swinging jib crane in the new galvanizing plant at the navy yard, Philadelphia, Pa. Refer to Specifications No. 2699.

Schooners, No. 4928.—Sealed proposals will be received by the lighthouse inspector, New Orleans, La., for the hire of schooners in repairing and rebuilding aids to navigation in the eighth district.

Dredging, No. 4929.—Sealed proposals will be received at the United States Engineer Office, 401 Customhouse, San Francisco, Cal., until December 19, 1917, for dredging in Oakland Harbor, Cal.

Shackles and swivels, No. 4930.—Sealed proposals will be received by the lighthouse inspector, Tompkinsville, N. Y., until December 5, 1917, for 193 shackles and swivels for light vessel and buoy chain.

Cranes, No. 4931.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Bureau of Yards and Docks, Navy Department, Washington, D. C., until December 10, 1917, for providing and installing on the runway rails one 5-ton, 3-motor bridge crane, one 2-ton hand-operated bridge crane, and one 1-ton hand-operated bridge crane in the machine shop at the submarine base, New London, Conn. Refer to Specifications No. 2701.

Engine oil, No. 4932.—Sealed proposals will be received by the lighthouse inspector, Tompkinsville, N. Y., until December 5, 1917, for 2,500 gallons lighthouse "A" engine oil.

Motor trucks, No. 4933.—Sealed proposals will be received at the general depot of the Quartermaster Corps, 3615 Iron Street, Chicago, Ill., until November 30, 1917, for furnishing and delivering, f. o. b. place of manufacture, 288 trailers, motor truck, $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 tons capacity.

Repair of tender, No. 4934.—Sealed proposals will be received by the lighthouse inspector, Baltimore, Md., until December 3, 1917, for docking, cleaning, painting, and repairing lighthouse tender *Juniper*.

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the Bureau and its district and cooperative offices. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and state opportunity number. The Bureau does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases. Symbols: * Reported by American consular officers; † Reported by commercial attachés and commercial agents; ‡ Direct inquiries received by the Bureau.

In considering the following "opportunities" special regard should be had to the laws and regulations governing export licenses and trading with the enemy.

Automobiles.....	25903, 25909	Hardware and glassware.....	25901, 25906
Bronze powder.....	25903	Hosiery.....	25903
Brushes.....	25901	Household articles.....	25903, 25906
Ceramic articles.....	25906	Leather goods.....	25906
Chemicals.....	25906	Machinery.....	25906
Confectionery.....	25901, 25910	Novelties.....	25906
Copper wire.....	25911	Oilcloth.....	25903
Cotton and tinsel cloth.....	25903	Sewing apparatus, paper.....	25904
Cycles.....	25903	Thermos bottles.....	25903
Dyestuffs.....	25903	Thread.....	25903
Electrical apparatus and supplies.....	25903	Tools.....	25906
Furniture.....	25903	Typewriters and calculators.....	25904, 25907
General agency.....	25905	Wood.....	25908
Groceries and provisions.....	25901, 25902, 25903	Writing paper.....	25903

25901.*—A company in South Africa desires to secure an agency for the sale of all kinds of groceries, confectionery, glassware, hardware, brushes, provisions, salmon, sardines, cheese, bacon, butter, flour, starch, etc. Goods will be ordered through New York commission houses. Correspondence may be in English. Reference.

25902.*—A man in England wishes to secure an agency for the sale of canned goods and groceries. References.

25903.*—A company in France desires to purchase or secure an agency for the sale of black, blue, and aniline dyestuffs, calcium carburet, oil cloth, household articles, tinsel and cotton cloth, bronze powder, condensed milk, preserves, braided and glazed thread, cycles, automobiles, electric apparatus and appliances, hosiery, curved-wood furniture, pianos, cotton and half woolen blankets, linoleum, thermos bottles, writing paper. Payments will be made on the 10th of each month. Correspondence should be in French. References.

25904.*—A firm in Spain wishes to buy new and reconstructed typewriters, calculating machines, and paper-sewing apparatus. It also desires to entertain an agency proposition. Payment will be made by check on New York bank on receipt of goods. Correspondence may be in English. References.

25905.*—A commission firm in Greece desires to be put in touch with American manufacturers and exporters with a view to becoming agents for the sale of all kinds of goods. Correspondence may be in English. References.

25906.*—An agency is desired by a man in Switzerland for the sale of machinery, agricultural machinery, tools, hardware, household articles, novelties, leather goods, ceramic articles, chemicals, etc. Correspondence should be in French. References.

25907.*—A firm in Scotland wishes to purchase rebuilt typewriters. Quotations should be made f. o. b. New York. Payment will be made by cash against bills of lading. References.

25908.*—A man in Italy desires to buy pitch pine, satin nut, and mahogany for furniture manufacturers. He also wishes to entertain an agency proposition. An estimate on freight rates should be submitted when cabling quotations. Cash will be paid. Correspondence should be in Italian or French.

25909.*—An agency is desired by a man in Italy for the sale of small automobiles, none exceeding 12 horsepower. Catalogues should be submitted. Correspondence should be in French or Italian. References.

25910.*—A man in England desires to purchase or secure an agency for the sale of chocolate, chewing gum, and any other line suitable for the confectionery trade. Payment will be made by cash. References.

25911.*—A firm in Spain is in the market for copper wire covered with silk, the wire to be 2.10 millimeters in diameter. Correspondence should be in Spanish or French. References.

NOV 24 1917

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY COMMERCE REPORTS



DAILY CONSULAR AND TRADE REPORTS
ISSUED DAILY BY THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE



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CANADIAN EMBARGO ON EXPORTATION OF FOOD PRODUCTS.

The exportation of food products, feeding stuffs, fertilizers, and certain other articles of necessity to countries other than the United Kingdom, British possessions and protectorates is placed under strict control by a Canadian order in council of November 15. The prohibition upon shipments of such goods is to be modified by licenses issued by the Minister of Customs, under regulations framed by the Food Controller of Canada, in favor of countries in alliance with the British Empire and having armies in the European field. The articles named in the list are as follows:

Animal fats; butter; castor oil; castor beans; cocoanut, desiccated; cheese; cod liver oil; condensed milk; copra; corn (maize); corn flour; corn meal; corn oil; cottonseed meal; cottonseed oil; crisco; dry blood; dry paste flour; fats, all; fertilizers, including cattle and sheep manure, nitrate of soda, poudrette, potato manure, potassium salts, land plaster, potash, cyanide, phosphoric acid, phosphate rock, superphosphate, chlorate of potash, bone meal, bone flour, ground bone, dried blood, ammonia and ammonia salts, acid phosphates, guano, humus, hardwood ashes, soot, anhydrous ammonia; glycerin; glucose; grease of animal or vegetable origin; hoof oil; hulls fodder; lard; lard compound; linseed oil; linseed; livestock; malt; meats, all; meat juice; meats and fats, including poultry, cottonseed oil, corn oil, copra, desiccated coconut, butter, fish (fresh, dried, and canned), edible or inedible grease of animal or vegetable origin, linseed oil, lard, tinned milk, peanut oil, peanut butter, rapeseed oil, tallow, tallow candles, stearic acid, pigtaills; fish; flax; flour; food grains, flour and meal therefrom; fodder and feeds; pigeons, carrier and others; pilchards (sardines), canned; poultry; rapeseed oil; rice; rice flour; rolled oats; rye; sago flour; samp, Indian corn; sirup; milk, tinned and powdered, not fresh; molasses; neat's-foot oil; Nestlé's food (infants); oats; oatmeal; oil cake; oil-meal cake; peanuts; peanut butter; peanut oil; soap, soap powder; stearine; stearine acid; stearine acid candles; sugar; sugar of milk; sulphurated castor oil; tallow; tallow candles; vegetable oils; wheat, wheat flour.

The instructions to the customs service for the administration of the above prohibition, issued on November 17 as Customs Memorandum No. 2139B, make special provisions for trade with the United States. Endorsement by the collector of customs at the port

of it will serve as a license for the exportation to the United States of the following quantities of goods specified: Less than 125 bushels of food grains; less than 25 barrels of flour; less than 125 pounds of butter, milk, and cream in usual quantities; fresh fish in usual quantities. Certain shipments containing a number of different articles, each of small value, may be forwarded to the United States after endorsement by a collector of customs. Such shipments are not to contain an amount of one commodity exceeding \$100 in value. Wheat from certain Provinces may be delivered to elevators in the United States when conveyed in farmers' vehicles.

All goods laden on cars and in transit on November 19 are exempted from the provisions of the order in council.

THE REBUILDING OF BERGEN, NORWAY.

[H. S. Waterman, clerk in American consulate, Bergen, Oct. 22.]

On January 15, 1916, the principal business district of Bergen was burned, 369 buildings of various kinds being destroyed. The loss has been estimated all the way from \$11,000,000 to \$27,000,000. Little has been done toward cleaning up and rebuilding, work of this nature being held in abeyance pending a decision as to the laying out of the burned section. Streets are to be widened, parks are provided for, grades are to be changed, and practically the entire district is to be repaved.

These plans are now completed, lacking some details, and accepted, so that the cleaning up has been started and the city's part of the rebuilding will go ahead as fast as the materials can be provided. It has not yet been decided who will have charge of the work, but under no circumstances will a foreigner's bid for the general contract be accepted. However, there is a great deal of material and machinery to be bought, for which foreign tenders will be considered—and even welcomed in the case of American products.

Street-Paving Machinery and Supplies.

The street paving is to be partly of stone blocks and partly of asphalt in about the following proportion: 38,300 square meters (45,800 square yards) of stone and 8,300 square meters (9,925 square yards) of asphalt, although the ratio between these areas may be changed later. This estimate does not include the paving of the parks, quays, and surrounding streets.

The sidewalks will be paved partly with cement and partly with asphalt or other bituminous composition. No estimate is made as to the quantities.

Concrete pipe will be used for the sewers, but it is believed that it can be manufactured locally more cheaply than it can be imported.

Rollers, tractors, concrete mixers, and other street-paving machinery will have to be purchased, as well as rails, dirt carts, and all necessary implements. Suggestions and literature as to the above will be received and considered by the Bergens Stadsingeniörkontor, Bergen.

Electrical Works Wants Data—Materials to be Purchased.

The following estimates may be taken as indicative of the material to be purchased by the Bergens Elektricitetsverk, Bergen. That office will welcome literature, and particularly suggestions as to dif-

ferent proven systems. The quantities and sizes are given in the metric system, as all purchases will be made according to specifications in that system (meter=3.28083 feet; square millimeter=0.00155 square inch; kilo=2.20462 pounds).

Five thousand meters of three-conductor paper-insulated, lead-covered underground cable (120 square millimeters), for 7,500 volts working pressure. (Working pressure up to 20,000 volts is still under consideration.)

Five thousand meters of cable like the above for 220 volts working pressure.

Fifty thousand meters of single duct vitrified clay or hollow brick. (Multiple ducts are under consideration for some districts.)

One hundred thousand kilos Portland cement.

Equipment for electric street-lighting system. (Suggestions as to the installation of standard types will be particularly welcomed.)

Sundry electrical equipment for which no specifications can be published as yet.

Plumbing and pipe fittings, valves, metering apparatus, etc., for hot-water heating systems, to be controlled by the Bergens Elektricitetsverk.

Estimates as to the amount of structural materials to be used by private builders are impossible to obtain. Competent local engineers say, however, that there will be a market for at least 100,000 tons of reinforcing and structural steel.

FARMING AND LIVE STOCK IN SOUTHERN RHODESIA.

[Consul General George H. Murphy, Cape Town, South Africa.]

According to the report of the Director of Agriculture, the total acreage in Southern Rhodesia reaped by Europeans in 1916 was 202,946, to which may be added 1,155,585 acres of native crops. Of the total acreage cultivated by white farmers no less than 86 per cent was under maize (174,647 acres), from which 680,285 bags were reaped. The maize acreage in 1917 was 203,902.

The following table shows the number of live stock owned in Southern Rhodesia by Europeans and natives in 1916:

Livestock and ownership.	1916	Increase over 1915.	Livestock and ownership.	1916	Increase over 1915.
CATTLE.			GOATS.		
European owned.....	Number. 468,504	Number. 73,648	European owned.....	Number. 30,189	Number. 3,671
Native owned.....	491,522	45,452	Native owned.....	693,255	31,388
Total.....	960,026	119,100	Total.....	723,444	35,059
SHEEP.					
European owned.....	62,371	12,149			
Native owned.....	294,996	33,403			
Total.....	357,367	45,552			

NEW SULPHITE MILL IN SWEDEN.

[Vice Consul Arthur E. J. Reilly, Stockholm, Oct. 13.]

At the Korsnäs lumber mills near Gefle preparatory work has begun on the erection of a mill to obtain sulphite spirit from sulphite lye. It is calculated that the mill will be completed in about six months. It is constructed for a yearly production of about 1,500,000 liters (about 396,000 gallons) and will be the biggest of its kind in Sweden. The production will be obtained along the lines of the Ekström method.

SUBSTITUTE FOR SUGAR OBTAINED FROM GRAPES.

[Consul Joseph Emerson Haven, Turin, Italy, Oct. 9.]

The deficiency of sugar in the Turine district has created an incentive for studying the question of substitutes, and the Italian Government has caused to be manufactured a type of loaf sugar combined with saccharine.

The question of obtaining sweetening substances from plants and fruits has naturally been studied by scientists, and at the Royal Experimental Station in Asti (Province of Alessandria) a new product called "Honey of Grapes," has been produced by a special process and patented apparatus, discovered by a Prof. Monti.

By means of this process a grape sugar resembling honey is secured through evaporation. It has a great advantage over other sugar substances in that it contains no water and therefore does not change in quality even if conserved for a long period.

How Honey of Grapes is Obtained.

In obtaining honey of grapes great care must be taken at the beginning of the operation to avoid fermentation of the grape juice; and in order that the evaporation of alcohol may be minimized and to further assist the process a certain quantity of sulphur anhydride is added. This latter, however, is eliminated eventually.

The grapes are pressed to separate the pulp and seeds from the juice, which latter is conveyed into a battery of eight tubs having double bottoms and heated by serpentine coils that keep the liquor at a steady temperature of from 95 to 104° F., thus allowing constant evaporation. On passing the eighth tub, the liquor must be quickly cooled and placed in a refrigerating room.

The process which follows (apparatus of Prof. Monti) consists in freezing the grape liquor in a rotating cylinder (ammonia evaporation on the exterior), the water in the liquor becoming crystalized on the inner surface of the cylinder and the ice crystals automatically scraped off by fixed knives as the cylinder rotates. The concentrated liquor and the ice crystals fall into a box having a perforated bottom which permits the liquor to pass through and return to the cylinders for further concentration.

The passage of the concentrated liquor over the ice crystals removes the acid therefrom and this acid (tartaric) is found as a layer above the ice crystals.

The liquor must be further concentrated in order to obtain a sirup of grapes, and this is done by means of heating in an apparatus under low pressure until the degree of density is 1,300. If honey of grapes is desired, further concentration must be effected until the point where crystals are formed.

Success of the Model—Various Uses for the Product.

At the Experimental Station at Asti only a small model of Prof. Monti's apparatus is employed, but notwithstanding a concentration of 55 per cent is obtained from grape liquor which at the beginning has only 16 per cent of sugar in solution.

The uses of this new product are varied, but mention should be made particularly of its adaptability in the preparation of preserved fruits and marmalades, as well as in the manufacture of flavoring fruit sirups for "nonalcoholic" beverages, which are so favored in Europe.

BIRMINGHAM JEWELRY TRADE.

[Consul E. Haldeman Dennison, Birmingham, England, Nov. 1.]

The jewelry, silver, and allied trades occupy a very prominent place in the industries of Birmingham. Great quantities of cheap ornaments and trinkets, made of base metal covered with a thin coating of electro-deposited gold or silver, yet possessing considerable beauty of design, finish, and ornamentation, are produced here. A good deal of the finer jewelry sold in London also originates in the Birmingham district. There are more than 1,000 firms directly occupied in the manufacture of gold, silver, and plated goods.

The present position of the jewelry trade is, on the whole, favorable, despite the fact that war exigencies are continually curtailing the output. Both gold and silver are scarce and prices high. The demand for wrist watches exceeds the supply. Many of those now selling on the local market are of Swiss manufacture. Large quantities of cheap German goods, captured while in transit to South America in the early stages of the war, have also recently made their appearance in the local shops. Many of these articles are of inferior quality. The low prices at which they were obtained and are being distributed has adversely affected the Birmingham industry.

Arrangements are now being made for placing the jewelry trade on a sound basis after the war, especially with regard to the South American markets. A representative of the Board of Trade recently visited Birmingham for the purpose of obtaining samples preparatory to a visit to South America. This enterprise was initiated by the Board of Trade, with the support of the Treasury Department, in cooperation with the members of the jewelry trade in the chief manufacturing centers. In Birmingham 64 firms have associated themselves with the scheme, in London 20, and in Sheffield 43. With samples from all these firms the representative will make a personal study of the conditions prevailing in the South American markets, the special characteristics of the demand, and the best methods of meeting it when hostilities cease.

PAINT AND VARNISH IN THE UNITED STATES.

Business men who deal in paint and varnish, and those who make use of those materials in substantial quantities are provided with much practical information regarding their composition and most effective uses in Circular No. 69 of the United States Bureau of Standards. The value of such a publication is measured by the magnitude of the paint and varnish industry in this country, where it is probably more highly developed than in any other part of the world. "While it may not be proper to class it as one of the great American industries," states the Bureau of Standards, "It is of practical importance to all householders, and its financial importance is much greater than is generally known." The value of the annual output of these products in the United States is about \$125,000,000.

The book contains chapters on the general nature of paint and varnish, methods of manufacturing varnish, detailed descriptions of the various paint pigments, the preparation of paints, application of paint and varnish, and specifications for painting. There is also a glossary. Copies of Circular No. 69, "Paint and Varnish," may be obtained at 15 cents each from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C.

ARGENTINE ANNUAL PEDIGREE LIVE-STOCK SHOW.

[Consul General W. Henry Robertson, Buenos Aires, Oct. 9.]

On September 9, 1917, there was opened at Palermo, a portion of the city of Buenos Aires, the usual Annual Argentine Live Stock Show, and notwithstanding the adverse circumstances under which this exhibition was brought to a close as a result of a general railroad strike throughout the country, the 1917 display of pedigree farm stock may well be characterized as the most successful ever held in the Republic in regard to the quality and quantity of exhibits in the cattle and sheep classes.

Its success was, as always, chiefly due to the efforts of the Sociedad Rural Argentina, an institution that has done so much during the last 50 years to improve cattle breeding in this country.

An American Among the Judges.

The exhibits of Shorthorns and Herefords formed, as they always do, the most attractive in the cattle line, and an unusually fine lot of both male and female representatives of these breeds were entered. Mr. Phillip Casserle Lee, an American, proprietor of the Hereford breeding establishment "Buena Ventura," San Angelo, Tex., and a co-proprietor with his brother in the Leedale Stock Farm, near San Angelo, accepted the invitation of the Argentine Rural Society to judge the Hereford cattle this year. Mr. Lee's decisions gave universal satisfaction. The Shorthorns were judged by Mr. Robert Bruce, who was invited by the Argentine Rural Society through the Royal Agricultural Society of England. Mr. George Beam, of West Balloch, Montrose, N. B., judged the Aberdeen-Angus cattle, while the horses and sheep were judged by English judges.

Besides the exhibits of cattle, horses, and sheep, there were displayed a great variety of by-products of the meat-freezing establishments. Agricultural and gardening implements, fencing, and cattle medicines were also on display. The general health of the cattle shown appeared greatly improved over that of last year when foot-and-mouth disease was so largely prevalent.

MINING IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC.

[Consul Arthur McLean, Puerto Plata.]

The only mine in operation in the Dominican Republic at the close of September was the San Francisco, owned by the San Cristobal Mining Co. It is a small copper mine located in the commune of San Cristobal in the Province of Santo Domingo.

The mineral resources of this island have never been studied very thoroughly. At various times coal, iron, salt, silver, copper, nickel, cobalt, manganese, and petroleum mines have been reported. It is not known if the deposits of these minerals are in sufficient quantities to warrant developing and the investment in mining machinery.

The laws of this country are very liberal, and allow the same freedom and privileges in industries to foreigners as to Dominicans.

The number of factories in New Zealand employing two persons or more during the fiscal year ended March 31, 1917, was 13,245 with 78,188 workmen, compared with 13,214 factories with 83,011 workmen in the preceding year.

TRADE CONDITIONS IN SHANGHAI.

[Consul General Thomas Sammons, Shanghai, China, Oct. 26.]

The customs revenue collected at the port of Shanghai for the three months ended June, 1917, amounting to 2,791,273 Haikwan taels (\$2,791,273), against 2,764,917 Haikwan taels (\$2,105,725) in the same period for 1916. [It will be noted that the value of the Haikwan tael was equal to \$1 United States currency in the 1917 period, compared with \$0.83 in the 1916 period.]

Imports from foreign countries continue to enter in restricted quantities. The piece-goods market has been speculative, due particularly to the difficulty of procuring fresh supplies. The floods in the north and political unrest have, however, caused some uneasiness to speculators, as it is considered that Tientsin, an important market, is largely lost to business for the present year. The floods there have been extensive and many have been rendered homeless.

In general goods of all description have been needed, and the favorable silver exchange has helped to counteract increased home costs.

Trade in Silk and Tea—Shortage of Coal.

In July the export of silk was brisk, especially in shipments to the United States, as much as 1,000 bales having been settled for in one day. This state continued until about the beginning of August, when the continued rise in silver exchange put a stop to business, and remained so until the end of September.

The tea trade has been fairly good despite the embargo declared by Great Britain. Nearly the whole of the first crop of black teas was taken up in August, and green teas were in great demand and prices high. The extraordinary high rate of silver in September, however, affected business, and little or no new business was put through during the month.

Owing to the high price of coal many have urged the municipal council to obtain control of a Chinese coal mine and work it for the benefit of the community, and thus render it independent of Japanese coal; but, so far, nothing has been done. The price of the best Japanese coal to-day is \$24 Mexican (\$16.65) per ton; a year ago it was \$18 Mexican (\$9.90), and in 1915 it was \$13.50 Mexican (\$6.07). The price is expected to go higher still with the approach of winter, as there are reports that the Japanese authorities intend to prohibit the export of coal from that country.

NEW PAPER TEXTILE COMPANY IN SWEDEN.

[Vice Consul Arthur E. J. Reilly, Stockholm, Oct. 22.]

AB. Abies has been purchased by a Borås syndicate and will be considerably enlarged. The company is engaged in the manufacture of knitting yarn, mats, and paper bags. The plant will now be transferred to Borås. All the raw material used in this manufacture is obtained in Sweden. The company will be absorbed by a newly formed joint-stock company with a minimum capital of \$800,000 which is already assured. A big factory site has been purchased in Borås, where, in temporary quarters, the manufacture will begin at once.

ITALIAN REGULATIONS FOR COMBUSTIBLE MATERIALS.

[Consul General David F. Wilber, Genoa, Oct. 18.]

The *Gazzetta Ufficiale* published at Rome, October 5, 1917, contains a new decree of the Commissary General for national combustibles, extending the regulations in regard to firewood to almond shells, pine cones, and pine-nut shells.

The Commissary General in regard to national combustibles previously ordered that all those who since July 1, 1917, had acquired woods or cuttings from woods, or undertaken work for the production of wood for fuel or charcoal, should declare within 20 days from September 29 their contracts for purchase, with the indication of the locality in which the woods are situated, the price paid, the quantity of wood for fuel or charcoal derivable, and the contracts to furnish undertaken and relative conditions; and should specify in what stage the work was and when it would be finished. They were also ordered to prosecute the cutting with alacrity, so as to reach monthly the amount of production which should be established by the Commissary General.

Husks from the Pressing of Olives.

Another decree forbids anyone to employ as a combustible for any use the husks obtained from the pressing of olives which have not previously been treated with carbon disulphid or other solvents for the production of sulphur oil. It provides also that exhausted olive husks—those from which the oil has been completely extracted—must be placed at the entire disposal of the Commissariat for national combustibles, which will order the distribution of such material.

All holders of olive husks not yet treated with carbon disulphid, with the exception of establishments for the manufacture of sulphur oil, are obliged to declare the fact to the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Labor within 15 days from the time the husks were produced. All holders of exhausted olive husks must declare the fact to the Commissariat for national combustibles by registered letter.

The price of olive husks not treated for the extraction of sulphur oil will be fixed by agreement between the Ministry of Industry, Commerce, and Labor and that of Arms and Munitions. The price of exhausted olive husks may be determined by the Commissariat General for national combustibles, account being taken of the price of the virgin husks and that of sulphur oil.

ATLANTIC COAST TIDE TABLES FOR 1918.

"Atlantic Coast Tide Tables for 1918," containing figures for eastern North America, has been issued by the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey. This publication, Serial No. 63, is reprinted from the general tide tables that are compiled by the Survey. Copies may be obtained at 10 cents each from the agencies of the Survey, a list of which is printed in the first number for each month of the *Notice to Mariners*, published weekly by the Bureau of Lighthouses and the Coast and Geodetic Survey. These agencies also have for sale the Survey's charts and coast pilots, and have for free distribution the chart catalogues and *Notices to Mariners*.

PERFUMERY TRADE OF ADEN.

[Consul Addison E. Southard, Aden, Arabia, Sept. 18.]

The value of the various classes of perfumery used in the Aden district is estimated (no accurate figures are available) at \$20,000 a year. The bulk of the perfumery sold here is of local origin or preparation, and it makes up probably three-fourths of the total amount used. The remaining one-fourth consists of cheap qualities imported mainly from England, France, and Switzerland.

The Arab in this district is very fond of perfumery, but as his purchasing power is generally limited he must have low-priced goods. He and his women are particularly fond of musk and of three flower scents—jasmine, narcissus, and rose. Musk is the most widely used of these four and is usually the artificial scent imported from Switzerland in the form of liquid, crystals, or powder. The Aden consulate is informed by local native perfumers that they now pay 50 shillings (\$2.15) a pound in Switzerland for artificial musk.

Other Favorite Scents—Cheap Local Preparations.

Next to these artificial scents in favor is the scent of an Indian wood known as aloes wood and by the native name of "ood," although it is generally used in a quite different form. This wood is said to be the inner bark of a tree which grows in the Straits Settlements, Burma, and British India. According to local information these trees are botanically known as *Aquilaria ovata* and *Aquilaria agallocha*. The "ood" used in Aden is imported from Calcutta. Next in favor with the Arabs come the various mixtures made from the locally prepared civet and ambergris. (The principal local uses of civet in perfumery are discussed in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for June 27, 1917.) The civet comes from Abyssinia. Ambergris is marketed by fishermen, who get it along the coasts of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden, the best quality being considered that which comes from Shukra, an Arabian port east of Aden.

Most of the perfumery imported is in the form of chemical musk and artificial narcissus, jasmine, and rose. All of that found in local perfumery shops was of Swiss manufacture, but import returns indicate that some of it is probably bought through English and French sources. These scents are in concentrated form and are very powerful. The Aden perfumers, who are usually Indians, use these concentrated scents in the preparation of toilet waters, ordinary spirit perfumes, and hair oils. An article is prepared which can be sold very cheaply, and which, having a powerful odor, is very satisfactory for the local trade. A 2-ounce bottle of perfume can be sold for 8 annas (16 cents) and a 2-ounce bottle of hair oil, which is often made by adding only a little scent to coconut oil, sells for the same price. Rose water and other toilet waters locally prepared can be purchased at 12 annas (24 cents) per pint bottle. There are even some cheaper grades, but these prices are the average.

German Perfumes—"Oodi" Well Liked.

The Germans once tried to compete with this locally prepared perfumery, but with little success. In one shop there was found a considerable stock of German perfumes, put up in fancy bottles which appeared to contain about 3 ounces. These perfumes were in the popular scents of musk, narcissus, and jasmine. The retail price

was 4 rupees (\$1.30), but the shopkeeper said that they were too expensive for the native trade and that he made only an occasional sale because of the attractive bottle. It is a very evident fact that the native must have a cheap perfume, and that it is not possible under present conditions to develop a demand for imported perfumes unless they are very strong and can be sold at near the low prices for which the locally prepared article sells.

There is a liquid perfume prepared from the "ood" above mentioned and it is quite popular on account of its lasting odor. This perfume is called "oodi," and one application will last for some days. It is said that a garment or a handkerchief which has "oodi" on it will retain the scent even after being laundered. "Oodi" is sold in three different grades, the price per tola (a rupee weight) being 7, 4½, and 2 rupees (\$2.25, \$1.45, and \$0.65), respectively. The second and third grades have much the largest sale, and although the price would appear to be a little high, this perfume is fairly cheap considering its lasting qualities.

"Ood" Used as Incense.

There are two uses for "ood" (the wood itself). In one the pieces of wood are burned in incense pots. The smoke is used to impregnate various garments with the scent. On festive occasions, when many guests are present, the native host will charge his incense pot with "ood" and pass the vessel around to the guests that they may scent their handkerchiefs, turbans, or tarbooshes.

The other use for this wood is in the preparation of an incense paste. This paste is made in various ways, but its principal ingredients are sugar and perfumes. Sometimes small pieces of "ood" only are added to the sugar, and sometimes there will be a combination of the sugar, "ood," civet, ambergris, or musk. The paste is dried, cut into cakes, and burned in incense pots to produce smoke with which to impregnate garments held over it with a strong and lasting scent. This method is much used by the Arab, Indian, and Somali women for perfuming the garments which they are about to don.

"Ood" is of two qualities—black and brown. The black sells for about 30 rupees (\$9.75) per pound and the brown for about 210 rupees (\$3.25). The wood is quite light in weight.

Considerable Traffic in Ambergris—"Barmoomi."

Ambergris is used both as a medicine and as a perfume. It is employed mainly by local perfumers for mixing with other cheaper scents and as an ingredient in the incense cakes above described. As a medicine it is often taken in coffee or tea. Two of its principal medicinal virtues, according to local belief, are the curing of colds and the strengthening of convalescents.

There is a considerable quantity of ambergris brought into the Aden market, a great deal of which is exported to Europe, though no figures are available as to the amount of this commodity handled here. The Arab fishermen bring it in. They find it along the coast of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden from Hodeidah to Shukra. The Arabs have an interesting way of testing ambergris. A piece will be placed on a sheet of paper and a lighted candle held under the paper. If the ambergris breaks it is considered of inferior quality; if it

slips from the paper without sticking it is considered as of first quality. They believe that inferior ambergris is that which has been swallowed by fish and then thrown up. Local experts assort ambergris into five grades, for which the prices per ounce are 75, 50, 20, 12, and 5 rupees (\$24.35, \$16.25, \$6.50, \$3.90, and \$1.60), respectively.

Another perfume having a small sale in this market is known as barmoomi. It is said to be made from various flowers which grow in East Africa. The local price is from 1 to 3 rupees (approximately \$0.35 to \$1) per tola. Very little is known about this perfume by local dealers. It is very powerful in odor—as it needs must be to meet with the favor of the local native.

Attar of Roses—Foreign Competition.

At times an inconsiderable quantity of attar of roses is said to be obtained from the Turkish Yemen by local perfumers, for use in the various classes of perfumery which they prepare. Usually, however, the chemical rose scent from Switzerland seems to give a stronger and more appreciated odor than the natural product.

The only conclusion to be obtained from a study of the local perfume market is that there is not a favorable chance for prepared imported perfumery to compete. The native perfumers, who control the trade, are skilled in mixing powerful scents, which they can sell very cheaply. The only possible sale for imported prepared perfumes would be to the small European population and to a few wealthy natives. This limited trade is at present supplied with excellent French perfumes, which can be sold at very reasonable prices.

SHIPMENTS OF CASTOR BEANS FROM PUERTO CABELLO.

[Consul Frank Anderson Henry, Puerto Cabello, Venezuela, Oct. 31.]

During the past four months castor beans have made their appearance for the first time (in many years, at least) as an article of export from Puerto Cabello. The following statistics show the extent of this movement, which, though small so far, will no doubt largely increase if the present prices are maintained: January to June, 1917, none; July to October, 1917, 1,886 bags, weighing 175,190 pounds valued at \$7,347.

According to information furnished by local exporters who have interested themselves in this crop, castor beans grow abundantly in this part of Venezuela; but the low prices which they brought in the past, combined with the high costs of interior transportation, made it unprofitable to market them in the coast towns, even though they grew wild in many places. The high prices which castor beans bring at present in the United States have completely changed the situation, and now farmers are actually planting this crop. Should prices remain at anywhere near present figures, largely increased exports may be looked for. Late quotations in Puerto Cabello have been between 45 and 50 cents per 100 pounds, which is three times former prices.

[The name of a Puerto Cabello exporter of castor beans may be procured from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district and cooperative offices by referring to file No. 94960.]

ANOTHER BANKING AMALGAMATION IN IRELAND.

[Consul Hunter Sharp, Belfast, Oct. 30.]

At a meeting of the shareholders of the Ulster Bank (Ltd.), held at the company's head office in Belfast on October 24, the proposed acquisition of its shares by the London County and Westminster Bank (Ltd.) was unanimously approved. Under the terms of purchase the London County and Westminster Bank will give two of its shares for three of the Ulster Bank and, in addition, a cash payment of £2 10s. (\$12.15) for each share. The exchange of shares alone will give the shareholder the equivalent of an increased dividend of 2½ per cent.

The London County and Westminster Bank, whose head office is in London, was established in 1836. Its authorized capital amounts to £14,000,000 (\$68,131,000), divided into 700,000 shares of £20 (\$97.33) each. Its paid-up capital totals £3,500,000 (\$17,032,750), and the reserve £4,000,000 (\$19,466,000). The Ulster Bank was also established in 1836. The capital authorized and subscribed is £3,000,000 (\$14,599,500); paid-up £500,000 (\$2,433,250); and the reserve fund, £700,000 (\$3,406,550). It is understood that the Ulster Bank will be maintained and the business carried on as heretofore under the present management and staff.

This is the second important amalgamation in which banks having their head offices in Belfast have been concerned, and the two schemes afford evidence of the strong position which this district occupies as a commercial and industrial center. It will be recalled that about the middle of this year the Belfast Banking Co. entered into an amalgamation with the London City and Midland Bank, particulars of which were given in a report from this consulate published in COMMERCE REPORTS for August 15, 1917.

PAPER COMPANY AUTHORIZED TO OPERATE IN BRAZIL.

[Consul General A. L. M. Gottschalk, Rio de Janeiro, Oct. 23.]

By decree No. 12642, of September 12, 1917, published in the *Diario Oficial* (Official Gazette), No. 240, of October 17, 1917, the Paraná Paper Co. is authorized to operate in Brazil.

This company is an offshoot of a Massachusetts firm which some time ago came to this country with the intention of starting paper mills and exploiting native fibers. It has bought out an old paper mill near the port of Paranaguá, State of Paraná, and has, it is stated, recently imported machinery to the amount of \$40,000. It appears for the present to be working exclusively with the fiber of a water lily known as Breja, which is found near Paranaguá.

As a fuel-saving measure passenger coaches on the Swiss Federal Railways will not be heated to the usual standard this winter, reports Consul Lewis W. Haskell, of Geneva. The use of traveling rugs, to offset this lack of heat, is suggested.

BRITISH EXPORTS OF RUBBER TIRES.

[Consul Harry A. McBride, London, Oct. 22.]

Before the war the rubber-tire industry of the United Kingdom had already become of considerable importance. Its manufacturers in 1913 produced, in addition to tires for domestic consumption, an export surplus valued at \$6,298,210. Owing chiefly to the unsettled business conditions immediately subsequent to the outbreak of war, the value of the exports of rubber tires in 1914 fell to \$4,965,390, but the normal figure was recovered in 1915, when \$6,285,221 worth of tires was exported. During 1916 the value of the over-sea shipments of British-made tires rose to \$10,423,430.

Official Returns for Four Years.

The foregoing totals include goods bought in the United Kingdom by or on behalf of the Governments of the allies, but do not include goods taken from British Government stores and depots or goods bought by the British Government and shipped on Government vessels. They embrace bicycle, motor-cycle, automobile, and carriage tire exports in the following amounts:

Articles.	1913	1914	1915	1916
Rubber tires and tubes for cycles (not exported with complete machines).....	\$2,002,805	\$1,608,615	\$2,097,700	\$2,939,098
Rubber tires and tubes for motor cars (not exported with complete cars).....	3,449,980	2,508,900	3,236,210	5,835,255
Rubber tires and tubes for motor cycles (not exported with complete cycles).....	106,780	322,385	391,700	511,310
Rubber tires and tubes for other carriages (not exported with complete carriages).....	618,645	525,460	559,610	1,137,770
Total.....	6,298,210	4,965,390	6,285,220	10,423,430

The great increase in tire exports during 1916 was due chiefly to the movement of motor-car tires, which rose from \$3,236,210 in 1915 to \$5,835,255, a growth of \$2,599,045 in one year. Apparently, however, this acceleration extended to the other branches of the trade as well, for they also show substantial increases during 1916.

Tires Exported as Parts of Complete Vehicles.

A large number of tires (not included in the table given above) are exported as parts of the complete machines, as evidenced by the following statement, showing the number of "complete" bicycles, motor cars, and motorcycles, and carriages exported from the United Kingdom.

Articles.	1913	1914	1915	1916
Cycles, other than motorcycles.....	147,633	108,978	64,224	58,878
Motor cars complete.....	1,535	6,051	3,279	2,183
Motorcycles.....	16,800	20,877	10,927	12,847
Other carriages.....	27,612	22,368	23,096	28,520

A considerable falling off in the number of vehicles of the above types exported to foreign countries has taken place since the out-

break of war. This has been especially noticeable in the bicycle trade, which has suffered a decrease of 60 per cent since 1913, and in the number of motor cars exported, which has declined by 67 per cent.

Destination of Foreign Shipments.

The countries to which bicycle tires were chiefly exported during 1916 are the Netherlands, to which \$544,285 worth was shipped, as against only \$237,440 in 1913; British East Indies and Denmark, which took \$507,875 and \$462,325 worth, respectively, in 1916.

As to motor-car tires, the principal destination in 1916 was France (\$1,208,830), followed by the British East Indies, South Africa, and the Argentine Republic. Before the war, Argentina was the chief market, the value of motor-car tires sent to that country in 1913 having been \$564,485.

The best customers for motorcycle tires in 1916 was Italy, South Africa, Denmark, British India, and New Zealand, whereas before the war South Africa was the chief market, followed by New Zealand and India. Rubber tires for carriages are shipped principally to British India, the East Indies, and France. The export of rubber tires of all descriptions to the United States is practically nil.

Complete bicycles are sent chiefly to British India, the Straits Settlements, the Netherlands, and the Malay States; complete motor cars to Russia, France, and India. Motorcycles go to France, Australia, the Netherlands, and India. In 1913, 3,094 complete motorcycles were exported to New Zealand, as against only 997 in 1916, and 2,600 to Australia, as against 1,282 in 1916. The shipments to South Africa have also fallen off, but those to the Netherlands increased from 172 in 1913 to 1,204 in 1916, and there was also an increase in the number sent to France.

Other Manufacturers—Current Year's Exports.

The statistics do not give separately the exports of rubber belting, including all materials of this sort under the heading "Other belting." The exports of rubber manufactures other than clothing, boots and shoes, tires and tubes, and belting were valued at \$8,060,120 in 1913, \$5,733,360 in 1914, \$5,158,810 in 1915, and \$8,088,620 in 1916. France has always been the chief destination of the rubber manufactures exported from the United Kingdom, and in 1916 took \$2,281,740 worth of the total. Large quantities are also shipped to South America, India, the Netherlands, and Australia.

[In the first nine months of 1917 the United Kingdom exported rubber tires and tubes in the following amounts: For bicycles, \$1,307,350; for motor cars, \$2,929,060; for motorcycles, \$503,860; for other carriages, \$464,730; total, \$6,205,000, or at the rate of \$8,273,300 for the complete calendar year. The number of tires exported as parts of complete machines can be estimated from the following data: Cycles other than motorcycles exported complete during January–September, 1917, 36,775; motor cars, complete, 1,264; motorcycles, complete, 8,509; other carriages, 7,664. Rubber manufactures other than clothing, boots and shoes, tires and tubes, and belting were exported to the value of \$5,995,000 during January–Sep-

tember, 1917, or at the rate of \$7,993,300 for the complete year. These figures, with the exception of motorcycle tires, indicate a "slowing down" of exports of British-made rubber goods to foreign markets during the current year.]

PROPOSALS FOR GOVERNMENT SUPPLIES AND CONSTRUCTION.

[Correspondence should be direct with the offices named, and specifications and other information can usually be obtained at the points where the goods are to be delivered or the work is to be performed. In cases where the time limit is too short to permit firms to submit tenders, they should ask to be placed on the mailing lists of such offices to receive notices calling for future supplies or work of a similar nature.]

Navy Department supplies, No. 4935.—Sealed proposals will be received by the Bureau of Supplies and Accounts, Navy Department, Washington, D. C., to which bureau firms desiring to submit proposals should apply, giving schedule numbers for furnishing the following: Schedule No. 1570, 4-foot plain radial drill, tool grinder, and 12-foot bed 16-inch engine lathe; schedule 1571, brass hose, bibb, etc., cocks, composition bushings, couplings, steam and water, etc., fittings, and brass, steam, and water, etc., valves; schedule 1572, motor-driven navigational sounding machines; schedule 1573, flat, hexagon, etc., naval rolled-brass rods, naval rolled-sheet brass, rolled phosphor bronze, and seamless drawn-brass tubing; schedule 1574, sperm oil; schedule 1575, boiler tubes (4 inches outside diameter by 18 feet long); schedule 1576, hard-drawn seamless brass voice tubing; schedule 1577, galvanized-iron sheaves, roller bearing and self-lubricating, and flat, single, crosscut, etc., files; schedule 1578, ship water-closets; schedule 1579, round, bar, naval rolled brass; schedule 1580, portable ventilating sets; schedule 1581, motor generators; schedule 1582, 5-foot bed, 12-inch, universal, high-duty engine lathes; schedule 1583, paint drier; schedule 1584, malleable-iron steam and water fittings, cast-iron steam and water lock nuts, and malleable-iron steam and water unions; schedule 1585, loose-pin butt hinges, 3-prong coat and hat hooks, brass wire gate hooks and eyes, swinging door door locks, type C cylinder drawer locks, bronze night rim latches, copper cut nails, copper boat rivets, and brass wood screws; schedule 1586, steel bolts and nuts, emery cloth, soft-steel rivets, galvanized-steel lag screw, square-head set screws, iron wood screws, and plate-iron or steel washers; schedule 1587, ingot phosphor copper; schedule 1588, composition steam and water couplings (fittings), bushings, and pipe in bibb cocks, brass steam and water cocks, and composition steam and water unions; and schedule 1589, boiled linseed oil.

Earthwork construction, No. 4936.—Sealed proposals will be received by the Reclamation Service, Department of the Interior, Washington, D. C., until December 17, 1917, for earthwork and structure on the Fort Laramie Canal, North Platte project, Nebraska-Wyoming, involving the excavation of 1,274,000 cubic yards of material and the placing of 2,925 cubic yards of concrete, 336,000 pounds of steel, and 5 gates. This work is near Torrington, Wyo., and Henry, Nebr., on the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railway.

OFFICES OF THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE.

DISTRICT OFFICES.

NEW YORK: 734 Customhouse.
BOSTON: 1801 Customhouse.
CHICAGO: 504 Federal Building.
ST. LOUIS: 402 Third National Bank Building.
NEW ORLEANS: 1920 Hibernia Bank Building.
SAN FRANCISCO: 307 Customhouse.
SEATTLE: 848 Henry Building.

COOPERATIVE OFFICES:

CLEVELAND: Chamber of Commerce.
CINCINNATI: Chamber of Commerce.
CINCINNATI: General Freight Agent, Southern Railway, 96 Ingalls Building.
LOS ANGELES: Chamber of Commerce.
PHILADELPHIA: Chamber of Commerce.
CHATTANOOGA: South American Agent, Southern Railway System.
DAYTON: Greater Dayton Association.
PORTLAND, OREG.: Chamber of Commerce.

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the Bureau and its district and cooperative offices. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and state opportunity number. The Bureau does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases. Symbols: * Reported by American consular officers; † Reported by commercial attachés and commercial agents; ‡ Direct inquiries received by the Bureau.

In considering the following "opportunities" special regard should be had to the laws and regulations governing export licenses and trading with the enemy.

Automobiles.....	25919	Fibers.....	25914
Barb wire.....	25917	Hosiery.....	25912, 25914, 25917
Blankets.....	25916	Looms.....	25913
Boots and shoes.....	25917	Machinery.....	25915
Buttons, buckles, and studs.....	25918	Paper.....	25912
Canned goods.....	25912	Peanut shellers.....	25915
Chemical products.....	25918	Sheeting.....	25912
Dress goods and suitings.....	25914	Surgical instruments.....	25919, 25920
Leaves.....	25916	Textiles.....	25917
Envelopes.....	25912	Thread.....	25917
Felt.....	25917	Underwear.....	25912

25912.†—A man in Cuba desires to secure an agency for the sale of white sheeting, hosiery, underwear, paper envelopes, wrapping and news-print paper, tissue and toilet paper, and canned goods. All prices should include export packing and delivery f. o. b. steamer, New York. Bank and trade references will be furnished with all initial orders. He usually receives a selling commission of from 5 to 10 per cent on net value of orders, accepted and delivered to common carrier. Quotations, correspondence, etc., should be in Spanish.

25913.*—A general commission merchant in Spain desires to purchase or secure an agency for the sale of automatic looms for wool working. Cash will be paid. Correspondence should be in Spanish or French. Reference.

25914.†—A man in Switzerland wishes to represent American manufacturers and exporters of brush fibers, hosiery, and woolen dress goods and suitings. Correspondence should be in French. References.

25915.*—A foreign government would like to receive catalogues, price lists, and full information, in regard to peanut shellers or machines for decorticating peanuts, and all other implements used in the cultivation of same. Correspondence should be in French, if possible.

25916.*—An agency is desired by a company in Chosen for the sale of yellow, black, green, pink, and red indigo, carmine, and coal-tar dyes. Goods are desired on consignment, to be paid for or returned within a specified time. Goods should be put up in 1-pound tins, about 100 tins to the case. Correspondence may be in English. Samples and prices should be submitted. References.

25917.†—A firm in South Africa desires to be placed in communication with American manufacturers and exporters of textiles suitable for the manufacture of shirts and other articles of clothing, blankets, hosiery, cotton and linen thread, felt, buttons, buckles, studs, boots and shoes, barb wire, etc. Full information in regard to prices, method of doing business, etc., should be submitted in first communication. Reference.

25918.*—A man in Italy wishes to purchase carbonate of soda in large quantities, potassium bromide, peppermint, seneca root, and other chemical products. Freight rates should be given when cabling quotations. Cash will be paid. Correspondence may be in English. Reference.

25919.†—A firm in Brazil desires to represent American manufacturers and exporters of moderate-priced automobiles and surgical instruments. References.

25920.*—A firm in Spain wishes to purchase or secure an agency for the sale of surgical supplies, such as clinical thermometers, syringes, needles for hypodermic injections, etc. Quotations should be made f. o. b. port of shipment. Correspondence should be in Spanish or French. References.

NOV 30 1917

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No. 277 Washington, D. C., Monday, November 26 1917

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APPLICATIONS FOR EXPORT LICENSES MUST BE IN DUPLICATE.

The War Trade Board has made a statement to the effect that hereafter all applications made to the Board for licenses to trade with an enemy must be in duplicate. Both copies must be sent to the War Trade Board.

SPANISH EMBARGO ON HEMP TOW.

The exportation of hemp tow from Spain is now prohibited, according to a cablegram of November 22 from Consul General Hurst, Barcelona. The order establishing the embargo was published November 20.

OPIUM CROP CONDITIONS IN GREEK MACEDONIA.

[Consul General George Horton, Saloniki, Oct. 24.]

The Greek Government has never published any data which would indicate the condition of crops, scales of prices, etc., in Greek Macedonia. The following report on the opium crop of 1917 has been based on information from private sources.

As communications with Turkey, Bulgaria, central and northern Serbia, and the region of Serres in Greek Macedonia, have been interrupted by military operations, it is impossible to estimate the production of opium in those countries during the current year. Consequently, the only available information is that concerning the crop in the regions of Langaza, north of Saloniki, and of the peninsula of Chalcidice, southeast of this city, which are the only regions in Greece that have raised the poppy this year.

These regions during 1917 have produced about 1,000 okes (2,820 pounds) of opium, representing about 20 cases. Conditions for the sowing of poppy were unusually favorable during the fall of 1916,

the weather being exceptionally fine; and the harvesting in June and July of this year was accomplished under very favorable weather.

Prices of Opium—Stocks.

Prices opened in June with the rate of 110 drachmas per oke (\$7.53 per pound) for very moist opium, which amounts to about 130 drachmas per oke (\$8.90 per pound) of opium having the normal degree of moisture. In July the first arrivals of the crop were sold in Saloniki at the rate of 155 drachmas per oke (\$10.61 per pound), and in August the price was quoted at 190 drachmas per oke (\$18 per pound). The last transaction of the local market, made in September, was concluded at the rate of 290 drachmas per oke (\$19.84 per pound). At the present time holders are demanding 350 drachmas per oke (\$23.95 per pound).

The stocks on the market at present consist of about 90 cases, of which 10 are of Greek origin with 14 to 15 per cent of morphine; 60 of Turkish origin with 12 per cent of morphine; and 20 of Bulgarian origin with 13 to 14 per cent of morphine. Export permits for opium of enemy origin, i. e., Bulgarian and Turkish, which have been in Saloniki since 1914 and 1915, were delivered this year by the allied authorities with less difficulty and much more frequently than in 1916. That is the reason for the very heavy reduction of stocks.

A still stronger price increase is foreseen, both on account of the scarcity of the article and of the fact that the drought this year has prevented the sowing of poppy. Moreover, the New York and London markets, which give the tone to the local one, are announcing higher prices each week, and are at present quoting much higher rates than those prevailing in Saloniki.

PRODUCT OF THE DUTCH FISHERIES.

[Consul Frank W. Mahin, Amsterdam, Oct. 11.]

During the nine months ended September 30, 1917, 1,407 steam and 8,109 sail trawlers delivered at the fish market in Ymuiden, at the entrance to the North Sea Canal, 10,057,797 florins (\$4,043,234) worth of fish. In the corresponding period of 1916, 3,282 steam and 6,339 sail trawlers delivered 19,482,665 florins (\$7,832,031) worth of fish.

Of boats fishing with lines the arrivals were 224 steam and 187 sail, with a total catch worth 1,526,803 florins (\$613,775) in the first nine months of 1917, against 214 steam and 155 sail, with a catch worth 914,802 florins (\$367,750) in the corresponding period of 1916.

During the first nine months of this year two sail herring-fishing boats brought a catch worth 12,619 florins (\$5,073). In the corresponding period of 1916, 22 steam and 316 sail boats brought 2,952,350 florins (\$1,187,049) worth of herring.

Altogether the catch brought to Ymuiden this year is not half in value that of 1916.

As the greater part (said to be 97 per cent) of the catch of Dutch fisheries is marketed at Ymuiden, the foregoing figures indicate a very serious decline in this important industry. It is due to dangers and difficulties resulting from the war. The only item of increase is in the number of sail fishing craft, which is due to the shortage of fuel.

BLAST FURNACE AND STEEL-ROLLING MILL FOR HOLLAND.

[Consul General S. Listoe, Rotterdam, Oct. 23.]

The Netherlands' Correspondence Bureau at The Hague announces that a committee has been formed to complete plans for the erection of a blasting furnace combined with a steel-rolling mill in the Netherlands.

It is the intention to build a large, modern-equipped plant, using principally ores from oversea, and for this reason the plant will be erected at a deep-water point.

The product should be so-called "quality material," the principal material for the Dutch shipbuilding industry.

The quantity of material used by the Dutch shipyards is considerable. It amounted in 1913 to 150,000 tons, in 1915 to 160,000 tons, and is still increasing.

Oversea Ores Arriving at Rotterdam—Coal Supplies.

As regards ores, the Westphalian (German) industry has also to depend largely on ores from oversea, and the greater portion of these ores has for years been arriving at Rotterdam.

Before the war about 8,000,000 tons of ore, or 15 times the quantity required for the new plant, passed annually through Rotterdam.

The Dutch plant will, by elimination of transshipment and freight expenses, have a considerable advantage over competing works.

The second important raw material, coal, will in the near future be produced in sufficient quantity in Holland itself. The production of the mines "Emma" (at present 500,000 tons), "Hendrik," nearing completion, and "Maurits," in course of construction, which mines all produce the desired bituminous coal, will in a few years exceed the required quantity of about 300,000 tons.

The location of the plant is also very favorable for the use of British or German coal.

Production of Rolling Mill—By-Products.

The production of the rolling mill is estimated at about 150,000 tons, of which 100,000 to 120,000 tons are to be used for shipbuilding, and 30,000 to 50,000 tons for other purposes. Besides, part of the blasting-furnace production will be put on the market as crude iron.

A number of by-products will also be obtained, which will find a ready market as raw material for various Dutch industries.

Especially the manufacture of cement from the cinders will be of the utmost importance, as the enormous quantity of this material used in the Netherlands heretofore was exclusively imported from other countries.

The great national importance attached to the establishment of this industry warranted the committee in seeking financial assistance from the Dutch Government, and these efforts have met with success, as according to the latest reports the Government will propose to the States-General to subscribe for the capital stock of the proposed company to an amount of 7,500,000 florins.

The two large railroad companies, Holland Railroad Co. and State Railroad Co., have also subscribed for 1,000,000 florins.

The total capital will be 25,000,000 florins, divided into 24,500 common shares of 1,000 florins each and 100 preferred shares of 5,000 florins each.

[A previous report on this project was published in **COMMERCE REPORTS** for Nov. 1, 1917.]

PROPOSED INDUSTRIAL ESTABLISHMENTS IN MADRID DISTRICT.

[Consul Ely E. Palmer, Madrid, Spain, Oct. 23.]

Under date of March 2, 1917, the Spanish Government promulgated a law for the protection of new industries and the development of existing industries, under which law the Government proposes to study such petitions for governmental assistance as might, under the present exceptionally advantageous opportunity for the development of Spanish industries, be presented in due form with a complete description of the nature of the enterprise for which assistance might be desired and an outline of the ways in which the Government might cooperate in its development.

The Gaceta de Madrid of October 15, 1917, publishes a list of 52 such petitions, 13 of which are from the Madrid consular district. Such petitions cover a large range of industries, such as the manufacture of citric acid, the manufacture of a patented bottle stopper, the manufacture of arms and munitions, the manufacture of clocks under a new patent and system, the manufacture of nitric and sulphuric acids, the development of a newly patented system of photography that permits of photographic reproductions on any sort of paper, the manufacture of electrical apparatus, the manufacture of porcelains and pottery, the manufacture of various objects of bronze and metal, the manufacture of lenses and other scientific articles of glass and crystal, and the manufacture of parts for wireless telegraphy and telephony. The governmental assistance requested for the development of these industries ranges from the mere exemption from taxes and customs duties to loans of several hundred thousands of pesetas.

These petitions are to be studied by the Junta for the Protection of National Industry, and it is highly improbable that much pecuniary assistance will be granted, although exemption from customs and other taxation may be accorded to worthy enterprises.

WAR REVOLUTIONIZES FOREIGN TRADE IN CHEESE.

While Europe is retaining nearly all of the cheese that it manufactures for its own pressing needs, Argentina has turned to cheese making on a large scale, and is now placing important quantities in the United States. In August, 1917, that country delivered 448,000 pounds in this country, and in September 279,500 pounds. These figures do not approach those of imports from Europe before the war, but they are interesting in view of the fact that during the entire year 1916 not a single pound of cheese came from Argentina.

During the fiscal year 1914, the last year before the war, the United States bought 63,800,000 pounds of cheese from Europe—26,500,000 from Italy, 22,500,000 from Switzerland, 5,500,000 from France, 3,700,000 from Holland, and smaller amounts from other countries. The average monthly imports from Europe were about 5,300,000 pounds. In August, 1917, exactly 99 pounds of European cheese were imported. Italy supplied this small amount. In September only 1,222 pounds came from Europe.

More cheese is being exported than imported. In September 2,000,000 pounds were sold abroad and this quantity was distributed to more than 50 countries. England took the bulk of it, 1,700,000 pounds, Cuba 109,000 pounds, and Mexico 39,000 pounds.

BIRMINGHAM'S BICYCLE AND BEDSTEAD TRADES.

[Consul E. Haldeman Dennison, Birmingham, England, Nov. 6.]

The new gasoline restrictions order that went into effect November 1 has caused a considerably increased demand for pedal bicycles, as the use of so many automobiles and motorcycles will necessarily have to be discontinued for the time being. The bicycle offers a cheap and convenient substitute to those persons unable to secure gasoline licenses and whose business requires them to travel about the city or district. The position of the bicycle manufacturers is such at present that they will be unable to cope with the increased demand. There has been no general issue of steel to this branch of manufacture for some months, and raw material has become so scarce as to seriously affect the output of bicycles. One of the largest manufacturers in this trade has stated that the production of bicycles had decreased to such an extent that in the case of his own firm a single large customer could now absorb the whole output of his factory and effect an immediate sale through the retail channels.

The home market has had the benefit of late of nearly the whole output. Over-seas markets have been cut off by lack of facilities here and by restrictive decrees which have been passed with regard to imports into various countries. As a result the export of bicycles has decreased to comparatively insignificant proportions.

Difficulties in the Bedstead Trade.

Another important local branch that is affected by the cutting off of steel supplies is the bedstead industry. Thus far there has been no issue of steel whatever to this trade under the rationing system except in the case of those factories that are engaged in the manufacture of hospital bedsteads. Hospital requirements continue to afford a considerable amount of employment, although current activity is on account of old contracts, no new orders of any magnitude having been received for some time past. As a result of the raw-material stringency more bedstead factories are turning to Government work.

FATAL RESULTS OF FEEDING NUTS TO LIVE STOCK.

[Consul Frank W. Mahin, Amsterdam, Netherlands, Oct. 29.]

The shortage of fodder in Holland is affecting the health of live stock because of substitutions—in some cases fatally.

Recently reports have been frequent of the death of stall-fed animals, attributed to spoiled or otherwise unwholesome feed. In many such cases the animals have been freely given acorns, chestnuts, and beechnuts, unshelled and uncooked. All of these nuts, it is averred, in their natural state have poisonous elements, especially in the shells. It is said that horses have died within 24 hours after eating raw and unshelled beechnuts in considerable quantities, the stomach and intestines being fatally disordered.

Experts advise that nuts be fed to stock in limited quantities, not more than a kilo (2.2 pounds) at the utmost per day, and then only after they have been shelled and boiled, care being taken to throw away the boiling water. It is remarked, however, that nuts can be fed more freely to pigs than to other animals, and that, besides, they are very fattening.

STATUS OF FOREIGN CORPORATIONS IN DOMINICAN REPUBLIC.

[Consul Arthur McLean, Puerto Plata, Nov. 9.]

American and other foreign corporations are allowed the same privileges and are subject to the same taxation as local companies in the Dominican Republic. There are no State or national taxes assessed on corporations, nor are they subject to any other restrictions.

Firms, individuals, and corporations are all obliged, however, to take out a municipal license in the town where they are established. If a concern has several stores or offices in the same or different towns, a municipal license must be taken out for each place of business. The amount of the municipal license is determined by the size of the town and the nature of the business. The towns for the purpose of municipal licenses are divided into four categories, which are grouped according to population.

Licenses for Different Business.

The various kinds of business are classified according to their relative importance, determined largely by their earning capacities, although profits are not taxed. For instance, jewelers' licenses are \$50, \$30, \$20, and \$10, respectively, in the towns of the first, second, third, and fourth categories.

There are three grades of bakeries each paying \$25, \$15, and \$10, respectively, in towns of the first category, and correspondingly less in the smaller towns. On the other hand banks pay the same license in towns of all four categories, i. e., \$100 per annum. The municipal licenses range from \$3 to \$500 per annum.

A business is only obliged to pay a license in the town where its store or office is located, and it may buy or sell goods in the neighboring towns without being subject to further taxation.

A concern is obliged to have its daybook registered in the courts of the towns where its business is located. There is no fee for this registration, which is merely a formality to give the business standing in the courts in the event of litigation. It is also a legal requirement for the same purpose, to retain carbon copies for 10 years of all correspondence.

Local manufacturers of certain articles such as soap, candles, matches, and cigarettes, are subject to a stamp tax. This stamp tax is assessed equally on both foreign and domestic corporations, and on the same articles when imported.

INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITION TO BE HELD IN THE HOKKAIDO.

[British Government Board of Trade Journal.]

Information has been received to the effect that an industrial exhibition is to be held at Sapporo, the capital of the Hokkaido, from August 1 to September 19, 1918. A limited amount of space for foreign exhibits will be available in one of the buildings, known as the reference building. Some 200 square yards of ground in addition may be used for the erection of buildings at the expense of intending exhibitors. Applications for space in the reference building must be received by January 31, 1918, and for the use of the additional ground by December 20, 1917. If such applications are made in a foreign language, they should be accompanied by a Japanese translation.

CANADIAN REGULATIONS FOR OLEOMARGARINE.

[Canada Gazette, Nov. 17.]

The conditions under which oleomargarine may now be imported into Canada and the exemption of this product from customs duty were noted in **COMMERCE REPORTS** for October 31. Further regulations for importation and sale have been issued by the Food Controller under date of November 15, and such of them as affect imported goods are reproduced below :

1. No substance intended for the coloring of oleomargarine shall be imported into Canada in packages containing oleomargarine, and no manufacturer, wholesale dealer or retailer dealing in oleomargarine shall deal in, sell, or give away any substance intended for coloring oleomargarine.

2. Licenses for the importation or manufacture of oleomargarine shall be issued from the office of and through the Veterinary Director-General and shall be countersigned by such officer or officers under the Veterinary Director-General as the Food Controller for Canada may thereto authorize.

3. Oleomargarine imported into Canada shall be accompanied by the export certificate of inspection of the country of production, and every importer shall, at the time that the importation is made, produce to the collector of customs such importer's license, and deliver to the collector the certificate of inspection of the country of origin. Import licenses will be issued in duplicate, one copy to be deposited with the customs when the first entry is made.

6. All material entering into the composition of oleomargarine shall be subject to inspection, and if not approved by the inspector shall not be used. The inspector shall have power at any time to take samples of any such material for analysis. No oleo oil or neutral lard shall be used in the manufacture of oleomargarine unless it is the production of an abattoir under the inspection of the Minister of Agriculture of Canada and bears the government inspection mark, or has been manufactured in the country of origin under inspection satisfactory to the Minister, and at the time of importation bears the official markings and is accompanied by the export inspection certificate of the country of origin. No milk shall be used in the manufacture of oleomargarine unless it is from tuberculin tested cows or else has been pasteurized before using, and no butter shall be used in such manufacture unless it is free from rancidity or any objectionable odor.

8. No oleomargarine shall be sold in Canada except under the following conditions: (a) The original package, marked and labeled as required by these regulations. (b) Each small package shall be wrapped separately, and on the label or wrapper the word "Oleomargarine" shall be printed or marked so as to form the most conspicuous word on the label or wrapper. (c) All labels, wrappers, and packages shall bear the official inspection mark of the country of origin, together with the name and address of the manufacturer.

The remaining regulations, not given above, provide for the supervision of Canadian manufacture of oleomargarine and for penalties for violation of the regulations.

CATALOGUES OF ELECTROMEDICAL APPARATUS WANTED.

[Consul Charles L. Latham, Kingston, Jamaica, Nov. 1.]

Dr. J. E. Ker, chief medical officer of Kingston, has requested this office to obtain for him catalogues and literature from American manufacturers of electromedical apparatus, particularly those used for ionization. Dr. Ker states that he will also be glad to receive communications and trade literature from American manufacturers and firms handling medical apparatus in general. In the opinion of this office, this is a worth-while opportunity for American manufacturers to get their advertising literature into the hands of interested persons.

PROGRESS OF BRITISH DYE SYNDICATE.

[Consul Harry A. McBride, London, Oct. 31.]

The report of the British dye syndicate (British Dyes, Ltd.) for the year ending April 30, 1917, indicates that very satisfactory progress has been made. A dividend of 6 per cent was recommended by the board of directors, this being the maximum amount allowed. At the annual meeting, just held, it was stated that the production of dyes continues to be limited by the shortage of certain materials, but notwithstanding this the supply throughout the year has been increased and the variety of dyes extended. An extensive plant for the production of azo colors has been completed and is now in operation.

The range of direct cotton colors has been supplemented by the inclusion of a yellow, violet, and green and the supply of wool colors of this type has been enlarged. The production of methylene blue has also been largely increased, as well as the output of mordant colors, which is now stated to be sufficient to meet the demands made upon the company for dyestuffs used in the manufacture of the varied clothing equipment of both British and allied troops. Among the vat dyes of the indanthrene type a blue and yellow are now being made, and it is hoped shortly to extend the range of these colors. The company has produced a color similar to the alizarin blue dyestuff for wool of exceptional fastness to the action of light.

Manufacture of Intermediates—New Works Planned.

Important installations for the manufacture of intermediates, including para-nitraniline and beta-naphthol, have been completed. Plants for the manufacture of other products are being proceeded with as rapidly as possible, and as these come into operation they will provide materials from which the variety as well as the quantity of colors manufactured can be augmented.

In addition to the plant referred to, the following important work, as well as much minor work, has been carried out:

(1) The construction of the works railway and its branches has been well advanced toward completion.

(2) A number of large new sheds for the manufacture of intermediates and colors have been completed.

(3) The electrical installation has been completed, and both the old and the new works are now entirely operated by the company's own plant.

(4) A power gas plant has been installed and is in operation.

(5) A water-service reservoir with a capacity of 2,000,000 gallons has been constructed.

(6) A pipe system for the distribution of gas, steam, and compressed air throughout the works is approaching completion.

Work of Research Department—Cooperation.

The work of the research department has received a great deal of attention during the year, and increased facilities for laboratory and experimental work have been provided. As soon as arrangements can be made for the supply of labor and materials, the construction of the main research laboratory at Huddersfield will be commenced, the plans having already been prepared. In the meantime, research work on behalf of the company is being carried on at the Universities

of Oxford, Leeds, and Liverpool, in addition to the work done in the several laboratories attached to the works.

The question of cooperation among dye manufacturers has been engaging the attention of the Board of Trade throughout the year, but no definite steps in this direction have yet been taken. The directors of British Dyes have throughout maintained the attitude that they will welcome any tangible proposal for cooperation with other manufacturers, provided the interests of the textile and other industries dependent on the supply of dyes are safeguarded, and provided the cooperation can be carried into effect in a manner consistent with the object for which this company was established.

PROPOSED REVIVAL OF FLAX GROWING IN SCOTLAND.

[Consul H. D. Van Sant, Dunfermline, Nov. 5: see also COMMERCE REPORTS for Aug. 13, 1917.]

At a meeting of the West Fife Food Production Committee in Dunfermline last week it was made known that a certain area of the surrounding district would have to be devoted to flax growing next season to meet the unprecedented demand for the fiber among the linen manufacturers of this district. A motor tractor and plow were ordered and other measures were taken to insure the definite allotment of flax-producing land for further experiments during the coming year.

The Scottish Board of Agriculture has also recommended that certain areas of land throughout Scotland be prepared for flax culture at the earliest time practicable. The considerable production of flax in Ireland last year, along with the profitable returns received, gave encouragement for an effort on similar lines in Scotland, particularly because of the world flax shortage and consequent high prices. Linen importers of the United States as well as the manufacturers of Scottish linens in this city and district will be interested in this new movement.

The linen trade here is now handicapped because of the scarcity of flax and the high price of yarns, and if prevailing conditions in this district are not soon overcome the result to the trade may become serious. If the flax-raising effort here is successful the result will likely be ultimately to reduce the price of Scottish linens and to bring about a revival of an old Fifeshire industry.

BRITISH INDUSTRIES FAIR OF 1918.

Announcement is made that next year's British Industries Fair will be held in the Pennington Street premises of the London Dock instead of in the Victoria and Albert Museum and the Imperial Institute, where the last two fairs were held. Much more space for exhibits will be available at the new location.

The fair will open on the last Monday in February (Feb. 25, 1918) and remain open for a fortnight. The British (Government) Board of Trade announces that, owing to the war, the fair will again be restricted to the following trades: Earthenware and china; glass; fancy goods; paper, stationery, and printing; and toys and games. As in past years, invitations to the fair will be issued by the Board of Trade and admission will be restricted to bona fide buyers in the trades concerned.

ITALIAN DECREES RELATING TO AGRICULTURE.

Several Italian decrees which were published at Rome on October 13, 1917, have been forwarded from Genoa by Consul General David F. Wilber. Measures were adopted with the intention of increasing the cultivation of the land, furnishing loans for such purposes where they are needed, and providing for the proper use of fertilizers.

Provision is made for the cultivation of abandoned cultivable lands. The Ministry of Agriculture will prepare lists of such lands in all those zones of the provinces of the south and of the islands where their abandonment shall have assumed notable proportions. The Government will grant for the cultivation of the lands, in the first two years, compensation, by means of increase of prices beyond those previously established, on grain, other cereals, vegetables, and edible tubers.

Whenever the owner does not carry out the work within a prescribed time the ministry of agriculture may proceed to the temporary occupation of the land for a period not exceeding nine years. The Government will pay the owner an annual indemnity. The lands may be conceded by the ministry of agriculture to farmers, cultivators, or public associations.

Credits to Agrarian Societies.

Credits to the agrarian societies of Latium are provided by decree. The National Insurance Institute, the National Reserve Bank for sick and aged workmen, the National Credit Institute for cooperation, the savings bank, the Government pawn office, and the ordinary and cooperative credit institutes, independent of any legal regulation, are authorized to grant loans to the agrarian societies of Latium for the purchase, improvement, and working of the lands. The National Credit Institute for cooperation is authorized to give credit to the agrarian societies, to furnish means for the ordinary cultivation and lease of lands. When the societies' revenues for the year do not cover the amount annually due to the helping institutes, the State will advance the difference, but advances by the State can not exceed 100,000 lire in total amount for each year.

Encouragement of Chemical Fertilization.

Another decree provides for the encouragement of chemical fertilization in Puglia, Calabria, and Sicily. Agriculturists and societies during the agrarian year 1917-18 are to receive, as a premium, reimbursement of not more than one-quarter of the actual purchase cost of the chemical fertilizers.

One decree aims at the repression of frauds in the chemical-fertilizer trade. The Minister of Agriculture is directed to have drawn up lists of the names exclusively admitted to commerce in fertilizing materials, together with the absolute minimum amount of fertilizing principles for each of them to contain. Chemical fertilizers and all fertilizing materials, commerce in which is normally carried on in sacks, must be sold in sacks closed with lead seals, which must show clearly the name of the seller. Every sack must bear the indication of the precise nature of the goods and the percentage of fertilizing principles.

INCOMBUSTIBLE CELLULOID IN JAPAN.

About a year ago a considerable amount of interest was aroused in the United States by the announcement that a professor in one of the Japanese Universities had invented a successful incombustible substitute for celluloid, to be manufactured from soya bean cake. At the time it was not found practicable to secure any more definite information with regard to the project, but recently further data have been received by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce. The new product has been given the trade name of "Satolite," derived from the name of the inventor, Prof. S. Sato, and a company for its manufacture has been started with a capital of 2,000,000 yen (\$1,000,000). Satolite is a galalith made of the glucine of soya bean, coagulated by formaline. It is said to be produced much more cheaply than ordinary celluloid, and to have several advantages for industrial use not possessed by the latter. The factory is to be built in the Mukojima district in Tokyo, and the actual production will begin this autumn.

[A notice with regard to this product appeared in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for Sept. 22, 1916. The name and address of the company which is to manufacture it can be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district or cooperative offices by referring to file No. 8055.]

IMPORTS INTO MEXICO THROUGH PIEDRAS NEGRAS.

[Vice Consul William P. Blocker, Piedras Negras, Coahuila.]

The following article was published in a daily publication of Eagle Pass, Tex., regarding business conditions with Mexico during September:

As an indication of the business activity in Mexico the following figures showing the shipments that were made to Mexico by merchants of the United States through the port of Eagle Pass during the month of September will be of interest. These figures were furnished to Secretary Mosebach, of the Chamber of Commerce, by Mexican Consul Arredondo and show that 22 automobiles were shipped into Mexico through Eagle Pass and Piedras Negras during the past month. There was also a heavy shipment of agricultural implements and mining machinery, which consisted of 267 crates. Twenty-four carloads of lumber for building purposes constituted one shipment. Railroad transportation facilities are to be improved, for there were 17 carloads of ties, 12 cars, and 1 locomotive among the shipments that went across the river the past month. Besides these exports, the list included 11,975 sacks of flour, 23,753 sacks of corn, 3,605 cans lard, 2,783 sacks sugar, 2,634 boxes of soap, 582 bundles of clothing, and 1,329 bundles of caustic soda.

BRITISH CHINA-CLAY COMBINE.

[Consul Robert S. S. Bargh, Stoke-on-Trent, Oct. 31.]

The chairman of the St. Austell China Clay Works has announced an agreement with other china-clay producing companies representing about 98 per cent of the production in this industry, by which it is expected to insure the regular distribution of the output of clay according to the capacity of each company and the quality of its product. A price advance of 33½ per cent will go into effect January 1, 1918. Present quotations for china clay range from 13s. to £1 10s. (from \$3.15 to \$7.30) per long ton, f. o. b. Cornwall.

NEW GAINS MADE IN BURMA'S MINERAL PRODUCTION.

[Consul Lawrence P. Briggs, Rangoon, Burma, India, Sept. 10.]

Statistics which were recently published by the Government of Burma show that the value of the mineral products of this Province (including petroleum and salt) during 1916 was about 10 per cent greater than that of 1915, which in turn was greater than that of any preceding year. The figures are:

Mineral products.	1915	1916	Mineral products.	1915	1916
Petroleum.....	\$6,033,278	\$5,357,531	Zinc ore.....	\$847	\$28,354
Tungsten ore.....	1,281,890	2,666,656	Iron ore.....	20,147	21,011
Lead and lead ore.....	1,578,550	1,567,211	Sapphires and spinels.....	6,898	8,104
Salt.....	40,780	717,776	Antimony ore.....	23	2,433
Silver.....	151,343	430,732	Amber.....	970	706
Building and road material.....	320,076	319,958	Molybdenite.....	484	445
Tin and tin ore.....	207,142	314,765	Platinum.....	11,515	225
Rubies.....	169,748	174,433	Copper.....	651	412
Jade.....	61,695	45,330	Clay for pottery.....		
Gold.....	60,028	37,517	Total.....	10,371,135	11,393,679

Petroleum was the only important article of this class to show a reduced value. The decrease was due entirely to a fall in the price of the local product. Although the value declined more than 11 per cent, the quantity was 3 per cent greater than in 1915. The exact figures were 282,291,932 gallons in 1915 and 291,769,083 gallons in 1916.

Petroleum Holds First Place as Mineral Product.

Petroleum is by far the leading mineral product of Burma, and next to rice and teak it is the chief export of the Province. The principal petroleum fields lie in the Irrawaddy Valley between Rangoon and Mandalay, particularly in the vicinity of Yenangyaung, about 300 miles from Rangoon. The average number of persons employed daily during 1916 was 12,648. Of this number about 100—chiefly oil drillers—are Americans.

The value of the output of the ores of the baser metals—tungsten, lead, tin, zinc, iron, etc.—rose from \$3,162,124 in 1915 to \$4,300,875 in 1916, a gain of more than 36 per cent. The principal gain was in tungsten ore, which nearly doubled in value, although every mineral in this list except copper showed an increase. The increase in value of the tungsten output was the principal feature of the year's report. The production (in tons of 2,000 pounds) of each of these metals was:

Minerals.	1915	1916	Minerals.	1915	1916
	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>		<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>
Tungsten ore (wolframite).....	2,546	3,680	Zinc ore.....	87	2,610
Lead and lead ore.....	42,202	13,965	Iron ore.....	15,526	16,081
Silver.....	265	497	Antimony ore.....	13.5	1,000
Tin ore.....	128	113	Molybdenite.....		0.4
Block tin.....					

Tungsten ore is obtained from the western slope of the mountains which separate southern Burma from Siam—the districts of Mergui, Tavoy, and Thaton, and, further north, the Southern Shan States. Tavoy alone produces about 85 per cent of the entire output, and it is claimed that it is the greatest wolfram region of the world. The Government is doing much to encourage the production of this mineral, and an even greater increase is expected during 1917. Tin

ore (cassiterite) is found associated with wolframite, or in the same region.

American Plant to be Established.

Lead, silver, zinc, and copper ores are found associated in the Bawdwin Mines in the Upper Shan States between Mandalay and the border of the Chinese Province of Yunnan. The principal ore is argentiferous lead. For many years, the Chinese from Yunnan extracted silver from these mines, but they abandoned them about 50 years ago. A British company took up a large concession here in 1902, and the Burma Mines Co. recently has been reorganized for the exploitation of these mines on a large scale. American miners and mechanics have gone up to inaugurate an up-to-date American plant there, and a greatly increased product is expected for 1917 and succeeding years.

The output of gold diminished from 3,183 ounces in 1915 to 1,988 ounces in 1916; that of platinum from 17.7 to 9.25 ounces. Practically all the gold and platinum produced in Burma is obtained by the Burma Gold Dredging Co. from the upper waters of the Irrawaddy River in the Myitkyina district, about 400 miles above Mandalay. Silver is obtained only in connection with lead and zinc in the Bawdwin Mines.

Rubies, sapphires, and spinels are obtained from a district known as Ruby Mines, lying along the waters of the Irrawaddy River about 100 miles north of Mandalay. The amount is gradually diminishing—304,872 carats in 1914, 251,449 carats in 1915, and 209,724 carats in 1916. The price of rubies rose, however, during the past year, and the value of the output increased from \$176,646 to \$182,558.

Jadeite or Burmese jade is obtained by the Chinese in the Myitkyina district and carried to Yunnan. During the past four years the output has remained nearly constant—164 tons in 1913, 188 tons in 1914, 183 tons in 1915, and 189 tons in 1916—but the value has suffered a great decline.

A variety of amber is found in the Myitkyina district. The production fell from 1,158 pounds in 1915 to 557 pounds in 1916, but, because of the rise in price, the value of the output has remained nearly constant.

Building and Road Materials.

The principal building material exploited in Burma is granite, the amount of which rose from 122,000 tons in 1915 to 219,000 tons in 1916, and the value from \$48,665 to \$89,219. The chief road materials are laterite, of which 228,000 tons, valued at \$97,330, were produced in 1915, and 222,000 tons, valued at \$81,108, in 1916; and gravel, represented by 108,000 and 105,000 tons, valued, respectively, at \$22,386 and \$19,142. These are found in practically all parts of Burma, but particularly in the Thaton-Tavoy region.

Salt is produced in many places in Burma, but the chief center of production is in the vicinity of Moulmein. The product for 1916 amounted to 42,225 tons compared with 31,060 tons in 1915.

Petroleum, rubies, and jade for many years have ranked among the important products of Burma, but until recently the production of metals was negligible. The development of the Bawdwin, and other lead, silver, and zinc mines in the Shan States, and of the wolfram mines in the Tavoy region have given metal ores a high rank in

Burma. In 1916 the value of the exports of these ores was greater than that of any other exports from Rangoon except rice, teak, and petroleum. A greatly increased output is predicted within the next few years.

SOAP PRODUCTION AND TRADE IN MALAGA.

[Consul Louis G. Dreyfus, jr., Malaga, Spain.]

Four soap factories are in operation in Malaga, with a combined monthly capacity of about 400 metric tons. The present actual production does not attain this figure on account of the very high price of the olive oil, caustic soda, and other raw materials. Manufacturers report a very keen demand in Spain for the common soap that is produced. Only one factory in Malaga, the Aceitera Malagueña, manufactures soap of a finer grade. This city's ordinary varieties are the green Castile and white Castile soap.

Local Process of Manufacture.

The process of manufacture is very simple. The caustic soda and olive oil or other fatty substances are placed in large vats. The mixture is then boiled for six hours to two days, depending upon the kind of soap to be made. Wood is used for firing, except in the largest factory, the Aceitera Malagueña, where the boiling is produced by steam which circulates through a coil. Olive-oil cake is used in the boiler room of this company. When the boiling ends the caustic soda and impurities are drawn off and the remaining liquid is poured out into large troughs or vats with wires already inserted at the bottom to be used in cutting the mass into blocks after it has dried out completely. The drying, which is by natural process, requires several days. After the product is dry the inserted wires are drawn, cutting the mass into large blocks, which are then removed from the troughs and made into bars of various sizes to meet the demands of the purchasers.

For the American market, the bars are packed into wooden boxes of 50 kilos (110.2 pounds) and for the local market into boxes of 46 kilos (101.4 pounds). The soap prepared for the United States is the best white castile, for which olive oils of good grade are used. The local demand is mostly for common green soap, in the preparation of which sulphur-oil or olive-oil foots are used. The Aceitera Malagueña factory at present has a maximum monthly capacity of 150 tons.

Changes in Prices During the War.

The wholesale price of the green Castile soap, which before the war was 56 pesetas, is now 75 pesetas per 100 kilos (220.4 pounds). The white Castile soap, which formerly was 69 pesetas per 100 kilos, now costs 104 pesetas per 100 kilos wholesale. "Olival," a good quality of scented soap, is manufactured by the Aceitera Malagueña. It is not only sold in the local market, but also is exported, principally to England, where it sells for 6d. (12.1 cents) per cake, wrapped in white lithographed wrappers. The present retail price of the locally manufactured green soap is 1.25 pesetas per kilo (2.2 pounds), and the white castile soap sells for 1.40 pesetas per kilo.

The population of Malaga is about 140,000. Highly perfumed soaps are in great favor here. The local factories satisfy the demand for ordinary and washing soap. Almost all the perfumed and

medicinal soaps, however, are brought from other parts of Spain or imported. Toilet soaps come in cakes of various sizes, wrapped attractively, and in most cases put up in fancy cardboard boxes containing three cakes. The average retail prices of toilet soap are from 1 to 3.50 pesetas per box of 3 cakes. Very small cakes of ordinary toilet soap unwrapped and weighing 35 grams (1.23 ounces), can be bought for 0.10 peseta each, and a brand of high-class soap which is imported from France retails as high as 16 pesetas per cake. Some of the favorite scents for soap are thyme, rose, lavender, marjoram, peppermint, and heliotrope.

American Shaving Soap a Best Seller.

The locally manufactured "Olival" sells at retail for 0.75 peseta a cake; "Sunlight" is imported, and retails at 0.50 peseta per bar of two cakes; Pears' soap is sold at 0.60 peseta per cake. Another popular soap in Malaga is La Rosario de Santander, made of almond oil. It is sold at 1.50 pesetas per bar, almost twice the size of an ordinary cake. Sublimate, carbolic, and similar soaps retail at 0.75 to 1 peseta per cake. Some tar and glycerin soap also is sold. An American brand of shaving soap is the best seller in this market. It retails at 1.50 pesetas per stick, the same price asked for the Royal Vinolia stick of British origin. A shaving soap which is manufactured in Spain, and sells at 0.75 peseta per stick, can not hold its own against the American product.

According to section 259 of the Spanish import tariff, the preferential duty which is enjoyed by the United States and the other principal manufacturing nations, on common soap is 15 pesetas per 100 kilos. This section includes saponified grease, even though imperfectly prepared, and soap, whatever may be its purity, if without perfume. Perfumed soap falls under section 261, assessed at 2.40 pesetas per kilo. Medicinal soaps come under section 247 of the tariff, assessable at 2 pesetas per kilo. All duties on soap are based on net weight.

Imports of Common Soap.

The only import statistics of soap that are given separately are for common soap. They indicate that only 235 metric tons were imported into Spain in 1914, 213 in 1915, and 154 in 1916. Common soap is imported principally from Great Britain, and toilet soaps from France. The national factories, however, furnish the greater part of the soap consumed in Spain.

There is no reason why American soaps can not replace the foreign soaps hitherto imported, the exports of which from the belligerent countries are now limited. The question of price is the prime factor. American manufacturers should study the present high rates from New York to Spain, and if c. i. f. prices Malaga can not be quoted an estimate of these charges should be attached to price lists to enable local dealers to make their calculations. Soap is kept in stock principally by dry-goods firms, druggists, grocers, hardware dealers, etc. Correspondence with them should be in Spanish. Pesetas have not been converted to American currency in this report on account of their fluctuation in exchange. The equivalent of the peseta, which was 19.3 cents, is now about 23 cents.

[A list of importers of toilet soap in Malaga may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 92960.]

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the Bureau and its district and cooperative offices. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and state opportunity number. The Bureau does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases. Symbols: * Reported by American consular officers; † Reported by commercial attachés and commercial agents; ‡ Direct inquiries received by the Bureau.

In considering the following "opportunities" special regard should be had to the laws and regulations governing export licenses and trading with the enemy.

Alcoholic beverages.....	25928	Jerseys.....	25925
Aniline dyes.....	25928	Machinery.....	25921, 25922, 25924
Clothing.....	25928	Office supplies.....	25928
Chemicals.....	25928	Oils.....	25921, 25928
Confectionery.....	25923	Paper.....	25928
Construction materials.....	25928	Perfumery.....	25928
Cotton, raw.....	25924	Pharmaceutical products.....	25928
Dried fruit.....	25928	Rabbit skins.....	25928
Drugs and medicines.....	25927	Shoemakers' supplies.....	25928
Electrical machinery and apparatus.....	25921	Textiles.....	25928
General merchandise.....	25926	Tools.....	25921
Hardware.....	25928	Toys.....	25928
Hosiery.....	25925	Underwear.....	25925

25921.*—A man in France desires to purchase or secure an agency for the sale of machinery used in metallurgy, electrometallurgy, paper manufacture, weaving, manufacture of chemical products, clothes making, cement manufacture, mining, etc.; lubricating oils, oiling systems, woodworking machinery, tools, large and small apparatus for installation of high and low tension, measuring apparatus, electric motors, dynamos, and other electrical machinery and devices. Correspondence should be in French. References.

25922.*—An agency is desired by a man in England for the sale of builder's machinery, such as concrete-mixing machines, cement block-making machines, etc. Reference.

25923.*—A firm in British Guiana wishes to secure an agency, on a commission basis, for the sale of confectionery. Quotations should be made f. o. b. New York. Payment will be made in 60 days or by cash against documents. Correspondence may be in English. References.

25924.*—An agency is desired by a commission merchant in Spain for the sale of raw cotton for the textile industry. Quotations should be made f. o. b. New York. Correspondence should be in Spanish. References.

25925.*—A man in England desires to purchase automatic or semi-automatic machinery for drawing glass rod and tubing for medical chemical laboratory and munitions purposes. Quotations should be made c. i. f. New York. Payment will be made promptly in United States currency. References.

25926.*—An agency is desired by a man in Spain for the sale of knit hosiery, underwear, and jerseys in Spain, Canary Islands, and North Africa. Ninety days' credit is desired. Correspondence should be in Spanish. References.

25927.*—A man in the French West Indies would like to secure an agency for the sale of general merchandise. Quotations should be made f. o. b. New York. Correspondence may be in English. References.

25928.*—A manufacturing firm in Spain is in the market for drugs and other products for use in medicine, pharmacy, orthopedic, and surgery. It also desires to entertain an agency proposition. Quotations should be made f. o. b. port of shipment. Correspondence should be in Spanish or French. References.

25929.*—An agency is desired by a firm in Brazil for the sale of rabbit skins for the manufacture of felt, materials for the manufacture of shoes, appliances for packing houses, hardware, construction materials, silk and cotton textiles, clothing for men, women, and children, chemicals, pharmaceutical products, perfumery, office supplies, paper, alcoholic beverages and liquors, essential oils, aniline dyes, dried fruit, and toys. Credit terms are desired. Correspondence may be in English. References.

NOV 30 1917

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FLOODS DAMAGE SIAM'S RICE CROP.

A cablegram received from Vice Consul Hansen at Bangkok states that floods have seriously damaged Siam's rice crop, about 400,000 acres being involved with approximate loss of 279,000 tons of paddy.

CANADIAN LIVE STOCK AND HAY FOR THE UNITED STATES.

[Customs Memorandum 2140B.]

The export of live stock and hay to the United States may now be licensed by indorsement of the customs collector at the point of exit on the usual shippers' export entry. This concession is in derogation of the embargo on all staple food products and feeding stuffs established on November 15 and announced in COMMERCE REPORTS for November 24. Other articles included in the recent embargo list may be exported only under permit from the Minister of Customs. General exemptions in favor of United States trade are set forth in the issue of COMMERCE REPORTS referred to above.

CANADIAN WHEAT FOR THE UNITED STATES.

Since April of this year wheat and wheat flour have been imported in greatly increased quantities from Canada. This is attributed principally to the fact that on April 16 Canada removed the duty on wheat imported into that country. The Dominion's action automatically admitted Canadian wheat free of duty into the United States under the provisions of the tariff law of 1913.

According to new statistics compiled by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, 840,981 bushels of wheat were imported from Canada in September, 1917, compared with 3,269,607 bushels for the whole nine months ended with September, 1916. For the nine months ended with September, 1917, we imported wheat from Canada to the extent of 21,490,269 bushels, more than 14,000,000 bushels of which came in free after April 16. The imports of wheat flour during these nine months totaled 403,270 barrels, of which 297,695 barrels came in free of duty. For the corresponding nine

months in 1916 the total imports were 157,289 barrels, and in 1915 only 90,499 barrels.

This Canadian wheat and flour is being received through every customs district on the northern border from the Atlantic to the Pacific. Buffalo led in September with 285,119 bushels of wheat and 51,596 barrels of flour; followed by Duluth and Superior with 223,883 bushels of wheat and 15,761 barrels of flour; Michigan, with 138,881 bushels of wheat and 1,539 barrels of flour; Ohio, with 114,096 bushels of wheat; Minnesota, with 12,145 bushels of wheat; and New York, Rochester, Vermont, Dakota, Montana, and Washington, with varying amounts. There is also a noticeable movement of Canadian flour to the West Coast.

INCREASED GRAIN ACREAGE IN SWITZERLAND.

[Vice Consul Frank Bohr, Zurich, Oct. 18.]

The Swiss Federal Council by decree dated September 3, 1917, has required all owners and renters of land to sow at least as much in grain during this fall and next spring as they had in grain according to the acreage statistics of July 7 to 14, 1917. Furthermore, in order to insure a relatively greater provisioning of Switzerland in breadstuffs, the grain acreage this fall is to be increased by 50,000 hectares, or 123,552 acres.

The grain area in the different Cantons, according to the statistics of July, 1917, was 117,110 hectares (289,384 acres), and the proposed increase according to the decree of the Federal Council would bring the area under grain this fall to 167,110 hectares (412,936 acres).

Swiss Government to Purchase Crops.

In order to encourage the increased cultivation of grains the Federal Government has also agreed to purchase the Swiss wheat, rye, one-grained wheat, and emmer of the 1918 crop, if in good condition and cleaned, at the minimum price of 50 francs (\$9.65) per 100 kilos (220 pounds) and the spelt at 45 francs (\$8.69) per 100 kilos. The minimum prices for the 1919 crop are fixed at 45 and 40 francs (\$8.69 and \$7.72), respectively, but should the selling prices of the Swiss Grain Monopoly for imported and other grains be higher during these years, these higher prices would also be paid for the grain produced in this country.

The cantonal and municipal governments are empowered and required to apportion and oversee the increased grain acreage prescribed in their territories; to temporarily appropriate and cultivate any grain land that may be left untilled or be unsatisfactorily cultivated by its private owner or renter; and to requisition for the latter purpose the labor and assistance of the residents of their communities as well as any available machinery and tools. With reference to the latter it is understood that some Swiss municipalities are ordering motor plows in the United States to be used in putting in the increased acreage of grain.

Machinery for Paper Making.

Catalogues of paper-making machinery and names of firms that would undertake to test raw materials for paper making, with estimate of cost per ton for testing such materials, are requested for the United States consulate at Bangkok, Siam.

EXPORTS FROM AMSTERDAM TO THE UNITED STATES.

[Consul Frank W. Mahin, Amsterdam, Netherlands, Oct. 10.]

The declared value of the exports from the Amsterdam district to the United States during the quarter ended September 30, 1917, was \$7,050,513. The principal articles were diamonds, \$4,736,424, and tobacco, \$1,620,313. During the corresponding quarter of 1916 the total was \$8,661,164, of which diamonds represented \$6,099,154; and tobacco, \$1,306,845.

The total value of the exports during the first nine months of this year was \$17,681,029, of which diamonds represented \$13,744,434, and tobacco \$1,954,751. During the corresponding period of 1916 diamonds made up \$16,266,069 and tobacco \$8,298,472 of the total exports of \$30,183,706. This year's total is the smallest of any similar period in recent years, excepting 1915, when the first nine month's total was \$13,284,800. The value of diamonds, however, was greater in this year's first nine months than in the corresponding period of any preceding year, excepting 1916—in fact, greater than the value in any entire preceding year, excepting 1916. But the value of the tobacco in this year's first nine months was hardly one-third of that in the corresponding period of many years preceding. This decrease was due entirely to scarcity in this market, which was caused by lack of shipping facilities owing to the war. The quantity exported decreased in greater proportion than the value, as prices this year were from 25 to 100 per cent above normal.

The quantity of diamonds exported was also much less this year in proportion to the decrease of value, as prices were at least 25 per cent higher. It is difficult to say what the advance really is, as dealers vary so much in their estimates, according to the different qualities in which they specialize and depending upon whether these qualities have risen much or little in price.

The Diamond Trade and Unemployment.

The strongest demand recently has been for the lower grades, *melées*, small brilliants, etc. The larger and costlier varieties find their principal market in the United States. An active request for the smaller and cheaper grades in the local market has been very favorable for retail dealers, and has also reduced unemployment in the diamond industry. At the beginning of 1917, the number of members of the diamond-workers union was 9,526, of whom 2,061 were unemployed. The latter number steadily increased until it reached 5,372 in April, 1917, when the total number of members was 11,464. Unemployment decreased during the following months, most rapidly in August and September. At the beginning of October the number of the unemployed was 2,963 in a total membership of 11,169.

All exports to the United States have declined this year in comparison with 1916, partly because of prohibition in some cases, but chiefly from a lack of shipping facilities.

Samples of the cowhide moccasins that are worn during the winter months in eastern Manchuria, a description of which appeared in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for November 2, 1917, have been forwarded from Antung, China, by Consul John K. Davis. They may be inspected at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district offices. Refer to file No. 94289.

RABBIT HAIR FOR FELTING NEEDED IN BRAZIL.

[Consul General Alfred L. M. Gottschalk, Rio de Janeiro, Oct. 19.]

This office has been approached by an importer who desires to know what opportunity there might be to import from the United States rabbit hair such as is used in the manufacture of felt hats. It appears that this article, which was formerly obtained chiefly from Belgium and in smaller quantities from France, has almost entirely disappeared from the market here.

The fur or hair, to be acceptable upon the Brazilian market, should be packed in paper bags of 2 kilos (about 4.4 pounds) weight each, and these should be inclosed in wooden cases of from 100 to 200 kilos (220 to 440 pounds) in weight.

This importer gives the following information as to the approximate consumption of the above article in various parts of Brazil where there are factories: Rio de Janeiro, 67,000 kilos; São Paulo, 30,000 kilos; Rio Grande, 127,000 kilos (1 kilo=2.2 pounds).

[The names of the firms in Rio de Janeiro using rabbit hair, with their yearly consumption, can be obtained at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district or cooperative offices by referring to file No. 94864.]

WAGES IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC.

[Consul Arthur McLean, Puerto Plata, Nov. 5.]

There is no fixed scale of wages in the Dominican Republic; but, owing to the high cost of living, brought about largely by the increased cost of all articles imported, wages have advanced considerably. There is almost always a scarcity of labor, particularly during the sugar season, when thousands of laborers are brought in from the neighboring islands to assist in the harvest and grinding.

The average rates of wages in the Republic are as follows: Day laborers, 60 cents; dock laborers, 80 cents; farm laborers, 50 cents; foremen, \$1.25 to \$2; masons, \$2; blacksmiths, \$1.50 to \$2; carpenters, \$1.50 to \$2; mechanics, \$1.50 to \$3; firemen, \$1.50 to \$2; locomotive engineers, \$2.50 to \$4. Tailors and shoemakers are usually paid by the piece, their earnings ranging from \$2 to \$3 per day. The few factory operators, that there are here, earn from 50 cents to \$2 per day, depending on skill and the class of work performed.

Market Desired for African Products.

An American consul reports from British East Africa that firms in his district desire to form connections in the United States for the sale of African products. One firm can supply the following articles in the yearly quantities given: Chillies, 200 tons; coffee, 100 tons; copra, 800 tons; groundnuts, 800 tons; sesame seed, 500 tons; rubber, 50 tons; ivory, 5 to 10 tons. Another firm can supply the following yearly quantities: Chillies, 600 tons; copra, 6,000 tons; peanuts, 1,000 tons; and sesame seed, 1,000 tons. The name and address of the firms can be obtained at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district or cooperative offices by referring to file No. 93845.

BEAD MAKING AT MURANO AND VENICE.

[Consul B. Harvey Carroll, jr., Venice, Italy.]

Glass making in Venice is of remote antiquity. By a law of November 8, 1291, the authorities of Venice, to avoid the risk of fire, ordered the glass-making industry to be transferred to the adjacent island of Murano, referring in the decree to the "ancient traditions of the populace there dedicated exclusively to glass making." Ever since Murano has been the most important center for handmade glass and glass-bead manufacture in the world.

In recent years certain kinds of handmade beads that must be worked and ornamented individually over the blowpipe and certain processes in the manufacture of machine-made beads, such as stringing and the polishing and glazing of some types, have been again transferred to Venice labor. Most of the loose stringing of beads is carried on by cottage labor in Venice, and the processes for the manufacture of bead articles, such as purses, curtains, flowers, and design work, are domiciled again in Venice, leaving in Murano the glass and bead foundries.

The island of Murano lies less than a mile distant over the lagoon north of the city of Venice. Its population is chiefly engaged in the various glass industries, including bead making.

Consolidation of the Murano Bead Companies.

Until about 20 years ago there were a number of competing companies engaged in bead making at Murano, but at that time (1896) 41 companies consolidated, forming the *Società Veneziana Per l'Industria delle Conterie*, whose paid-up capital stock is now 4,500,000 lire (\$868,500 at mint rate). This company enjoys a complete monopoly of the bead-making industry, has been very prosperous, and does a world exporting business on a very large scale, shipping to Africa, India, Oceania, Asiatic countries, Europe, and the Americas. It makes the beads that are used as money by certain tribes in the Kongo and in German West Africa and ships many thousands of tons of bead ornaments to the savage as well as the civilized nations of the world.

The offices of the company are in a magnificent old palace at Murano, the Palazzo Trevisan, which boasts frescoes by Tiepolo. Near by are the foundries and factories, covering many acres of ground. Before the outbreak of the European war this company kept in storage more than 2,000,000 kilos (4,409,245 pounds) of manufactured beads. At the present time less than one-fourth this quantity is in stock, and production has greatly decreased, owing to difficulty in securing fuel and raw material. The company uses normally 8,000 tons of coal a year. Before the war coal cost from 21 to 28 lire [at normal exchange the lira is worth \$0.193] per metric ton. Now, buying in large quantities, the lowest price is 450 lire per ton (metric ton=2,204.6 pounds), and the Government allows the company only 200 tons a month.

Rise in Cost of Materials.

Soda potash (soda potassa), Solvay type, the prime raw material of glass making, cost before the war 10 to 12 lire per quintal (metric quintal=220.46 pounds); it now costs 120 to 160 lire per quintal.

Niter or saltpeter (nitro) has increased from 500 lire to 5,000 lire per metric ton. Potash has increased from 400 lire to 6,000 lire per metric ton. Minio formerly cost 50 lire per quintal; it now costs 280 to 300 lire. Zinc, copper, arsenic, cobalt, all the different minerals used in coloring glass, soda, alum, quartz, and even sand have greatly increased in price. The sand for Venetian glass making is imported, coming from Fontainebleau, in France. This very fine type of white sand is also to be found at Sorate, near Rome, in Piedmont, and in Norway. In former times sand was brought from Pola, Trapani, and other places on the Adriatic coast.

The first process of making beads is making glass compounded of soda, sand, and various minerals according to the color desired. The yellows and oranges have a large admixture of lead. It is introduced in the form of an oxide known as "minio." This minio is, I believe, oxide of lead, and comes in several grades according to the vividness of the color, ranging from deep orange to red. (The word is sometimes translated vermilion, but vermilion is properly a mercuric sulphide, usually obtained from cinnabar.) Minio was formerly purchased from England and Germany, but is now made in Italy, that used at Murano being supplied by Venice firms.

Raw Materials Used—Mineral Colors.

The fondant for ordinary types of beads had formerly a base of Egyptian natron (native sodium carbonate). Nitrate of soda from Chile and crude niter (saltpeter), refined carbonates of soda, sulphate of soda, refined niter, potash, cryolite (a fluoride of sodium and aluminum produced in Greenland, used for obtaining soda and alumina), and especially the highly refined Solvay soda used as a solvent for sand (formerly imported from France, now made also in Italy), figure in the fondants required for the higher types of beads. Since the last years of the last century feldspar has been used as a solvent agent on a large scale. The first used came from Turin and England.

The coloring materials are all mineral, including in recent years various oxides unknown to the glassmakers of antiquity, especially oxides of cobalt, chromium, and uranium. The more important coloring materials are minio, compounds of manganese, copper (from which a great variety of colors are obtained), iron, zinc, arsenic, antimony, silver, gold, and zaffara (a sort of mixture of which cobalt is the base, used for tinting glass blue).

Cobalt in its various combinations gives deep shades of blue and was a coloring agent known to the Egyptians, as was also copper. Silver was used by the ancients to give a yellow-gold color, but the master glassmakers now know how to obtain the same shades without the use of silver. The first one to obtain a formula was a certain Giovanni Giacomuzzi. This maker also tried to produce the deep ruby or pigeon-blood color for which gold is the only successful coloring agent, and marketable shades have been produced, but none that compare with the ruby glass of the old makers which was colored with gold. This glass is known as rubino. Most of the secrets of the trade lie in the color formulas, which will naturally not be divulged. New colors and shades and combinations are constantly being formed, so that Venetian beads run the entire prismatic scale.

The Fifteen Steps in Bead Making.

The processes of bead making are often said to be three, to wit, making the glass, making the canes, making the beads out of the canes; but so simple a classification is not instructive. A better division is obtained by following the processes of the industry itself as seen at Murano.

(1) Compounding the materials; (2) fusing the materials into the fondant or molten glass; (3) cupping the fondant to prepare the orifice that will run through every cane and every bead; (4) pulling the fondant into long hollow tubes; (5) cutting the tubes into canes of about 1 yard in length; (6) sorting the canes according to diameter; (7) clipping the assorted canes into bead lengths and fanning out the powdered glass; (8) filling the orifices of the sharp-edged beads with a composition of charcoal and lime, mixing the beads thus filled with a quantity of sea sand, re-fusing in revolving crucibles to eliminate the sharp edges and round the beads, and cooling; (9) fanning out the sea sand and mechanically sorting the beads for size; (10) mechanical sorting for perfect perforation; (11) in some cases polishing or lucidation; (12 and 13) stringing or mechanical threading on fine metal wires; (14) sorting strung beads for color; (15) packing for shipment.

This list of processes will cover the manufacture of all the smaller beads produced in bulk, and, in fact, of all one-color beads not hand-made. Taking up these processes in their order, it may be noted that all except the first are subject to inspection and have, in fact, been seen by the consul.

Compounding and Fusing.

1. Compounding the materials. This is done according to formulas more or less secret out of the materials already enumerated and others such as carbonate of lime, cream of tartar, and various minerals. At present the basement of the immense plant of the Società Veneziana is used as a storage room where soda, potash, sand from Fontainebleau, minio, and other minerals for composing the fondant are kept.

2. The glass is fused into the molten mass or fondant in immense crucibles, lined with fireproof tiling and clay, some of which hold 5 and 6 tons of molten glass. The fuel is Newpelt coal, of which the normal annual consumption is 8,000 tons a year. (Cardiff and Pocahontas coal do not serve so well.) The degree of heat obtained varies from 1,000° to 1,600° C., as the materials must be exposed to a heat of 1,000° before they fuse properly. The immense pots or crucibles are covered over, lined with fire clay, and have orifices or portholes through which can be seen the glow of the melted glass, which might be taken for boiling candy. (These furnaces are built by Engineer Sprengiani, of Milan.)

How the Hole is Made.

3. About the crucible are workmen with great tubes of iron like a section of gas pipe 12 or 15 feet in length, called ferri da canne, which they dip through the portholes into the molten fondant and take out a doughlike mass, which is then pounded on metal tables or anvils until it begins to change in color from white to red. Roughly rounded by this process, the doughlike mass on the end of

the rod is then opened by another workman with an instrument called a borsetta, that appears to be a giant pair of spring pincers, and the fondant is scooped and pressed out as if it were a dumpling being prepared for an apple.

This scooping out creates the orifice or hole, which ordinarily remains through all other processes until the beads are finished and complete. This cupped mass is again thrust into the oven and heated to white heat and almost the consistency of glue without being allowed to collapse or lose its cupped form. It is again taken out of the crucible, and another workman, provided with an iron rod having a broad, blunt end, presses that end against the top of the fondant cup, to which the heat causes it to adhere.

4. As soon as the second rod adheres the two men walk away from each other, pulling out the melted glass between them, just as candy is pulled or as a child pulls his chewing gum into a thread. Cross-ties are laid at intervals over the floor, and on these the rope of glass is supported. So ductile is the fondant that a mass the size of a loaf of bread can be stretched for a distance of about 300 yards. Even when the fondant is pulled out to the thinness of a cambric needle it remains a pipe or tube, the bowl of the cup growing ever smaller but always remaining hollow. This fact renders bead making in bulk possible.

Cutting, Sorting, and Clipping the Canes.

5. As it cools this tube or pipe (which often resembles an unbroken filament of vermicelli) changes from white to red and from red to the permanent color given it by its mineral coloring matter. The size of this tube will depend on three things:

(a) The fineness and character of the materials of which it is composed, which will affect its ductility, especially the quality and quantity of soda used.

(b) The size of the cupped mass drawn out. A smaller mass makes a finer and thinner tube.

(c) The speed at which the two men walk away from each other in stringing out the molten mass. If they walk rapidly the tube will be smaller and thinner.

As large beads are made in precisely the same way as small ones the diameter of the beads will depend entirely on these three things, and especially on the last two, for out of the same fondant tubes of all sizes can be made. These tubes are, when cold, cut or broken into lengths of about 1 yard. These lengths are called "canne" (canes or reeds) and resemble straws or bamboo rods without joints; and these canne are the material out of which the beads are made. In similar fashion rods that are not hollow canes can be made by merely omitting to make the cup in the fondant.

6. The canes are sorted into sheaves of the same size. This work is done by women and often by quite young girls, who work by the sense of touch, rapidly dividing canes that are apparently all of the same diameter into different groups between the fingers.

7. The sheaves are then taken to the clipping machines, which resemble little guillotines. On a flat trough the canes, placed side by side, pass automatically (but guided by hand) under the little guillotine blade that, by the revolution of an electrically driven wheel, clips the canes into bits by biting off the ends. The length

of these bits is about equal to the diameter of the cane. These clipped cross sections have sharp edges. The powdered glass produced by the clipping is sifted and fanned out, and the raw-edged beads are ready for rounding and finishing.

Rounding the Beads—Sorting for Size and Perforation.

8. The holes in the raw beads are filled with a composition of charcoal and ordinary lime, after which the beads are intermixed in four or five times their weight of ordinary beach sand from the Adriatic, and the sand and stuffed beads are put into an egg-shaped, covered crucible that revolves on an axis, tilted at about the same angle of inclination as the globe. This crucible revolves in the heart of a gas-fed furnace at about 400° of heat. The charcoal is consumed, the lime vanishes after having served to "fix" the aperture, the edges of the beads become smooth and rounded, the sand grinds and polishes them and at the same time keeps them from coalescing with each other, and, finally, sand and beads together are dumped out into large shallow pans to cool.

9. When cold the sand is sifted and fanned away in a series of large, covered, wooden ventilators, and the beads, clean and polished, pass through a funnel or hopper into a series of rocking cradles placed one above the other in a series of eight. The floors of these cradles are sieves with graduated orifices or mesh bottoms, and from these cradles the beads, neatly assorted as to size, pass through little hoppers into baskets set to receive them. Beads of the same color but of many different sizes are thus automatically assorted as to size. (Assortment as to color is first made by hand while the beads are still in the cane.)

10. For the smaller varieties of beads still another sorting is necessary to determine if the holes have been perfectly preserved. For this purpose a cylinder about 15 inches in diameter, covered with thin wire filaments (like a wire brush), revolves over a tray of beads, and the filaments catch the beads that have holes in them, lifting them over, on the principle of a water wheel scooping up water, and dropping them on the other side through a hopper into a box. The bead is now complete, sorted as to color, tested as to size, tested as to perforation, associated with its fellows and equals, and ready for stringing or for shipping unstrung. This completes the necessary processes for making one-color beads.

Invention of Machine for Testing Perforation.

The necessity of a machine to sort the beads for perforation to detect and discard the imperfectly perforated beads was very great. In 1894 it was possible to make the ordinary small beads for about 70 centesimi per kilo (100 centesimi=1 lira; kilo=2.2046 pounds). The threading was done by women, as at present, using a handful of needles (24 to 30) at a time and threading very rapidly. For the very small beads the string was about 10 inches long and for the larger beads about 18 inches long. A bundle consisted then of 480 strings, and a good worker could string 10 bundles per day at 12 centesimi per bundle.

There was a constant controversy between the women and the companies because out of every 100 kilos the women used to bring back 20 kilos, or one-fifth, claiming that they could not be strung—mean-

ing that they could not be strung rapidly as the orifices were small or faulty, and as the woman worked by the piece they interfered with her speed and diminished her pay. Only about 5 per cent, or 5 kilos out of 100, were totally lacking in perforation. So the makers had a grievance as well as the women, as such beads had to be remelted and remade and for this purpose had a value of only 5 centesimi per kilo, and the makers were losing about 9 lire per 100 kilos on 15 kilos of beads that could have been strung but not rapidly.

Cavaliere Salvatore Arbib, one of the manufacturers, conceived the idea of the sorting drum with the wire teeth, and the machine, called a "tamburo," was made by Meyer & Sons, of Birmingham, England. The teeth or threads of the sorting machines may be of various diameters, so that the beads rejected by a coarse-toothed machine may be picked up by a finer toothed tamburo. This machine was perfected in 1894. The first threading machine to thread the beads on fine wire was made by the same firm in the same year for the same man. The total cost of the experiments and the making of the two machines was about £5,000 sterling (\$21,300).

"Lucidation"—Mechanical and Hand Stringing.

To return to the processes:

11. Certain one-color beads for America have the surfaces slightly ground by contact with emery paste or other grinding material or even sawdust. This process takes place outside the Murano factory and usually in Venice. It is called lucidation (*lucidazione*).

12. Certain beads are then strung by special machinery on thin wire filaments. The wires are suspended in brass tubes and the projecting curved end of the wire picks up beads from a revolving basin which forces them against the end of the wire. These wire-strung beads are mostly exported to France for use in making the coarser grades of artificial flowers for funeral wreaths.

13. All small beads are ordinarily strung by hand. This is done in Venice by cottage labor of women and girls. It is not an unusual sight in the Castello section of Venice to see a group of women and girls sitting in the streets, each with a pan of beads in her lap, threading and gossiping at the same time. The needles are about the length of knitting needles, but much smaller in diameter, with an eye for the thread at the lower end like an ordinary hand sewing needle. The worker takes a number of these needles and spreads them out like a fan or the tail of a peacock, holding them thus grouped in one hand and thrusting the ends into the pan of loose beads until they are covered for almost their full length, when the beads are slipped down on the threads and the needles are again arranged to pick up more beads. A good worker can operate 24 needles at a time, and some of the women boast that they can operate 48 needles at once.

"Count" and "Pound" Beads—Multicolored Beads.

14. The strands of beads are sometimes bunched by the women who thread them and sometimes by girls at the Murano factory. Some classes of beads are bunched for weight and others for number. Many of the small beads are sold by number. Such beads are sometimes referred to as "count beads," while those sold by weight are known to the English trade as "pound beads." The bunched beads are sorted for size and color and in some cases according to country

of destination and are stacked in shelf bins in the warehouse according to a chromatic scale. To look at the side of the warehouse is like looking at a rainbow where the shades insensibly melt into each other.

15. The bunches of loosely strung beads are usually packed for shipment in small packages (1 pound or 1 kilo) wrapped in manila paper. The label shows catalogue or list-card classification of the merchandise and also bears the name of the purchaser (printed) when the purchaser is a regular client and buys in large quantities.

Even the smallest beads may be made in more than one color and can, in fact, be made in a great variety of colors and patterns. The process is identically the same as for making one-color beads except that a distinct fondant must be made for each shade of color. Out of the base fondant is made the cup as described in No. 3 above. The fondants of the other colors are superimposed on this to make the pattern, reheating the cup as often as necessary but never allowing it to lose its cup form. When all the colors are superimposed it is reheated almost to the point of liquefaction and then pulled into the tube as already described. The ductility of the medium causes the pattern (as is the case with the orifice) to be preserved, even though the tube be pulled out to the diameter of a needle. The different shades of fondant may be applied in complete coatings, like insulations on a wire, or in stripes applied to the base fondant, much as a candy maker adds his stripes of peppermint and wintergreen in making stick candy.

Rosetta Work of Franchini.

If the fondant is not cupped, but is pulled out in a solid rod instead of into a tube or cane, a cross section of that rod (not its surface) will reproduce any pattern desired. Indeed the pattern may be made with rods of cold glass so staked that their ends form a mosaic. They are then fused to the point of ductility, but not of liquefaction, and even if drawn out to the thickness of a needle a cross section will show the complete pattern. Glass for mosaics (used also for African and mosaic beads), showing patterns of stars, flowers, and geometric designs, is made in that way, and each clipped segment of the rod shows the pattern on its face.

In the first half of the last century Jacopo Franchini, perhaps the most remarkable glassworker Murano has produced, by binding tiny straws of colored glass together formed at the end of the rod a miniature portrait or other design. This combination rod was then fused at a blowpipe and drawn out until a rod no larger than a knitting needle might be cut into cross sections, each one of which would show a perfect portrait or perfect design. In the Murano Museum there is a section of glass rod less than 1 centimeter (centimeter=0.3937 inch) in diameter that shows three perfect portraits side by side, or, rather, in clover-leaf arrangement. Owing to his intense application to so painstaking a work Franchini died in a madhouse, and nobody has since been found who can duplicate his work in glass, although several attempts have been made.

By the courtesy of Cavaliere Arbib a small collection of Franchini's work is transmitted with this report. [This collection has been placed in the National Museum at Washington.] It includes small portraits in glass of Garibaldi, of King Victor Emmanuel, of Count

Cavour, and of the three together, including the clover-leaf triple portrait described above—the smallest group of portraits in the world. The exhibit has also a portrait of Emperor Franz Josef in the year he ascended the throne, of a lady said to be the sweetheart of Franchini, of the Rialto Bridge, of a gondola, of a cat, of a skull, and a number of flower and figure designs. The design originally ran the entire length of the glass rod and each disk clipped preserved it perfectly. Such disks can be used as mosaics in the making of handmade beads or combined with goldstone to make flat surface brooch designs, a sample of which is included in the collection.

Mosaic Beads—Male and Female Labor.

Mosaic beads intended for African and other wild tribes are properly classed with handmade beads, but as a small section of the "canna" is always or nearly always used as the base a description of their manufacture is included here. These beads are not spherical, as pieces from one-half to 2 inches in length are clipped off the canna. These are then fused by blowpipes at Bunsen burners, and mosaic beads are pressed into the surface to give the desired pattern and fused to the point where they coalesce but without losing shape. These long beads with snakelike mottlings and markings are then ground to a smooth surface, strung, bunched, and packed for shipment. Such beads are really individually handmade, although they can be made to set patterns very quickly. Few of these beads go to America, although they might easily become a fad there. Nothing but the canes for these beads are made at Murano; all the other work is done at the Venice plant of the society. The foregoing covers all the varieties of beads made at Murano. There are certain types of beads, each individually handmade, ornamented, and enameled at the blowpipe, showing surface patterns of roses and other flowers and designs, that are made exclusively at Venice by expert workmen. These will form the subject of a special report.

In the making of beads in bulk the fondant is mixed, melted, and molded by men, and men do all the furnace work and the making of the canes. Men also sharpen the axes of the clipping machines, but the greater part of the detail work of bead making is done by women. Women operate the clipping machines, sort the beads, sort the canes, operate the machines that string the beads on wires, do the work of stringing on thread and of bunching the beads, do most of the work of preparing the beads for shipment, work at the blowpipe in making and also grind the African beads, and do nearly all the work of manufacture of bead articles. They are paid by the piece and can increase their wages by expertness. At the Murano factory the Società normally employs about 1,000 families on bead making. A woman's wages vary between 1 and 6 lire per day according to her skill and speed.

History of Venetian Glass and Bead Making.

Perhaps the best work on Venetian glass making, including bead making, is by Angelo Santi, director of the museum at Murano and of the journal, *La Voce di Murano* (now no longer published, which contains some excellent historical articles on glass making). Copies of Mr. Santi's book are no longer available except in libraries. It is entitled "*Origine dell'Arte Vetraria in Venezia e Murano*;" Suo

Rissorgimento e Progresso, Cenni Storici" (Origin of the Glass-Making Art in Venice and Murano; Its Renaissance and Progress). A very limited use of this book has been made in this report. All the processes of bead making are described from visits to the factory under the hospitable guidance of the management.

From the above-named book much of the following information as to the historical origin of bead making is condensed.

"Margarette" or "conterie" were known to the Egyptians, and there are in Murano and Venice several specimens of Egyptian mummy beads, some of them so small as to weigh only 0.93 grain, known to date from 1100 B. C. It is possible that the first Venetian makers came from Byzantium, and mosaic makers are known to have been called to Venice when Byzantium fell.

Paternostri from Rock Crystal.

The first Venetian beads seem to have been made by artisans in rock crystal, after which the glassmakers of Murano imitated the beads from natural quartz by perfect counterparts in glass. These were for religious uses in prayers and were called "paternostri." The glassmakers who manufactured them had the special name of "paternostrieri" and were afterwards known as "suppealume," or glass blowers, and "margareteri," or bead makers. Domenico Miotti and Chrystoforo Briani, of Murano, are credited with making the first blown beads of glass in the XIII Century. These blown beads are said to have been taken by Marco Polo on his voyages, but perhaps the beads used by this famous Venetian traveller were only the paternostri.

The beginning of the present Venetian bead industry seems to have been in the early part of the XV Century, when German traders ordered the glassmakers of Murano to make pipes, or canne, which were sent to Germany to be cut and afterwards retransported to Venice for shipment to the Levant. As the cutting of the canne into sections is the simplest of all operations connected with bead making, I am inclined to the opinion that all the work was done at Murano, except for a brief period when a law prohibited the making of paternostri out of glass on the ground that it was wrong to imitate the natural crystal. This law was substituted by another in 1510 permitting the cutting of paternostri, short and long, out of the canne.

Faceted Beads—Some Famous Combinations.

It is not known just when beads began to be rounded, but the first were probably rounded one by one by being placed on a spit and exposed to the flame, just as we know that the early crucibles were very small and were gradually enlarged until they reached present-day dimensions.

A new variety of beads was made in 1860 by Lorenzo Graziati and afterwards by Giuseppe Zecchin and others. This type is called "Macca" and is made by subjecting the tubes to enough pressure to give them facets so that they become quadrated or take a pentagonal, hexagonal, or octagonal form. This process is mostly used for jet beads. A slight variation rules lines in the facets, and this type is called "Chanell." Beads with superimposed stripes of different colored fondants are often called "Rosetta" beads, especially when the

stripe is a fine one, but the true Rosetta work in beads is shown in the Kongo money bead.

There are many beautiful effects produced by clever compositions or superimposing of fondants, each of which is a special process that can not be entered into in detail in the limits of this report. Some of the famous combinations thus obtained are the "Chiario di Luna" (moonlight), "Iride" (iris or opalescent), "Ceraspagna trasparente" (transparent Spanish wax, an amber effect), and "Cristallo Argento" (crystal silver). Tiffany in America is famous for producing these effects in glass. The handmade beads, which are nearly all made from the canne, produce remarkable imitations of amber, yellow and red, lapis lazuli, coral in all shades, verd antique, agate, onyx, and most of the semiprecious stones.

Derivation of Italian Word for "Beads."

The generic word for beads in Italian is "conterie," said by Busolin to be derived from the use of beads by savage tribes as counting money, "moneta contante." Others hold the word to be derived from the expression "contigie muliebri," or women's adornments. The writer ventures the opinion that the word had its origin in the fact that the paternostri, the first beads, were made to be counted in numbering prayers. "Counting one's beads" is a religious act and phrase that still persists and has doubtless given to beads the Italian generic name "conterie"; i. e., things to be counted, from the verb "contare," to count.

Perle, or "perle Veneziane," also covers most varieties of beads. An ancient name is "margarete," and, finally, many varieties and classifications have distinct names, some of which have been indicated.

FARM LABORERS' WAGES IN HOLLAND.

[Consul Frank W. Mahin, Amsterdam, Oct. 10.]

Relatively very large compensation was paid farm laborers in this district during this year's harvest season. For cutting (with a sickle) and binding wheat or oats, the laborer received per hectare (2.47 acres) 35 to 40 florins (\$14.07 to \$16.08). Twenty years ago it is said 6 to 7 florins (\$2.41 to \$2.81) was considered good pay for similar work.

During the recent harvest an energetic farm laborer could make as much as 8 florins (\$3.22) per day, and a man, his wife, and two grown children could earn about 125 florins (\$50.25) per week.

Wages in other industries have advanced in much less degree than on the farms. The reason is that other large industries have not made, on the whole, so great an increase of profits on their products as the farmers. Formerly the Dutch farmer made only a small profit and could afford to pay only corresponding wages. Since the war began his profit has so greatly increased that the present rate of wages is relatively no more to him than the old-time rate, if as much.

Agency Desired for Portuguese Port Wine.

An American consular officer reports that one of the oldest port-wine houses in Portugal desires to secure an agency in New York. The name of the firm can be obtained at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district or cooperative offices by referring to file No. 94320.

A MARKET FOR COLORED GLASSES IN MALTA.

[Consul Wilbur Keblinger, Valetta, Oct. 20.]

The houses, streets, and roads in Malta are built of nearly white stone, and during the summer months these reflect the sun's rays so strongly that colored glasses are largely worn by both the native population and foreigners. Many sizes and forms of frames and many different colors of glass are used.

Heretofore goggles have been imported from England and Italy, but there is no reason why American manufacturers should not meet this competition in both quality and price. It is almost impossible to secure freight transportation from the United States to Malta at the present time, but it would be possible to send such goods through the mails, at least in sufficient quantities to build up a demand which could be well supplied when conditions become normal.

[A list of Valetta commission merchants handling goggles as well as a list of retail dealers in the same line may be had upon application to the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district and cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 94915.]

SWISS CHOCOLATE AND CONDENSED MILK INDUSTRIES.

[Consul Lewis W. Haskell, Geneva, Oct. 25.]

The American consular agent at Lausanne, Canton, Vaud, reports as follows on the chocolate and condensed milk industries. (Vaud is the center of these industries in this district):

The chocolate business has increased enormously here and prices have gone up 40 per cent. Exportations of chocolate to the United States and the Philippines are very small, but business in this country is excellent.

Condensed milk is reported in heavy demand, as liquid milk is hard to obtain. Shipments of condensed milk to America has fallen off sharply. The condensed-milk factories, notwithstanding good business and increased price for their products, furnish various centers with liquid milk, thus curtailing their output but nevertheless managing to supply all their regular customers with the condensed articles.

GRAPE CROP OF GENEVA DISTRICT.

[Consul Lewis W. Haskell, Geneva, Switzerland, Oct. 25.]

The result of the grape crop for 1917 in the Geneva consular district, comprising the Cantons of Vaud, Valais, and Geneva, has been most satisfactory. The wine production will be superior in quality and normal in quantity. A month of fine dry weather at harvest time not only brought the grapes up to a high state of perfection but made the gathering possible under the most favorable circumstances.

More wine is produced in this consular district than in any other district in Switzerland; the average is about 7,500,000 gallons per year. Present prices are highly satisfactory to the producers.

OFFICES OF THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE.**DISTRICT OFFICES.**

NEW YORK: 784 Customhouse.
 BOSTON: 1801 Customhouse.
 CHICAGO: 504 Federal Building.
 ST. LOUIS: 402 Third National Bank Building.
 NEW ORLEANS: 1020 Hibernia Bank Building.
 SAN FRANCISCO: 307 Customhouse.
 SEATTLE: 848 Henry Building.

COOPERATIVE OFFICES.

CLEVELAND: Chamber of Commerce.
 CINCINNATI: Chamber of Commerce.
 CINCINNATI: General Freight Agent, Southern Railway, 96 Ingalls Building.
 LOS ANGELES: Chamber of Commerce.
 PHILADELPHIA: Chamber of Commerce.
 CHATTANOOGA: South American Agent, Southern Railway System.
 PORTLAND, OREG.: Chamber of Commerce.
 DAYTON: Greater Dayton Association.

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the Bureau and its district and cooperative offices. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and state opportunity number. The Bureau does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases. Symbols: * Reported by American consular officers; † Reported by commercial attachés and commercial agents; ‡ Direct inquiries received by the Bureau.

In considering the following "opportunities" special regard should be had to the laws and regulations governing export licenses and trading with the enemy.

Bookbinding machinery and tools.....	25939	Leather.....	25938
Chemical and pharmaceutical products.....	25935	Machinery.....	25936, 25940
Cotton twist.....	25931	Needles.....	25930
Drugs.....	25935	Power plants.....	25931
Fire engine.....	25938	Rice hullers and parts.....	25931
Foodstuffs.....	25935	Seeds.....	25932
Hoop iron.....	25937	Sulphate of ammonia.....	25934

25930.*—A firm in Brazil desires to purchase cotton twist on conical paper tubes, and needles of different kinds. About 4,000 kilos of white, blue, black, red, yellow, etc., cotton twist are used every month. Samples of the cotton twist and different needles such as are desired may be examined at the Bureau or its district offices. (Refer to file No. 94562.) If desired, payment will be made by cash against documents in New York City. Correspondence may be in English. References.

25931.*—An agency is desired by a company in India for the sale of complete power plants, such as steam, gas, and oil engines, for stationary and portable purposes; also rice hullers and spare parts. Quotations may be made f. o. b. New York. Payment will be made by cash against documents at destination. Correspondence may be in English. References.

25932.*—A firm in Argentina is in the market for garden and grass seeds. Correspondence may be in English. Reference.

25933.*—A man in Italy desires to purchase chromo-tanned leather for shoes. Credit will be opened for payment. Correspondence should be in Italian. Reference.

25934.*—An organization in Spain desires to purchase sulphate of ammonia. Payment will be made after receipt and inspection of goods. Correspondence should be in Spanish.

25935.*—An agency is desired by a firm in Switzerland for the sale of chemical and pharmaceutical products, drugs, food stuffs, and similar lines. Payment will be made by cash against documents. Correspondence may be in English, but French is preferred. References.

25936.*—A man in Italy is in the market for all kinds of machinery for flour mills. Catalogues should be submitted. Correspondence may be in English. Reference. The machinery is to be used in Montevideo, Uruguay.

25937.*—A company in England desires to purchase hoop iron for tea chests, the hoops to be one-half inch wide, and shipped in 50-ton lots for Colombo, Ceylon. Payment will be made by letter of credit in America against shipping documents, or draft 3 days after sight on the company. Reference.

25938.*—A foreign government wishes to buy a light motor fire engine with a capacity of from 200 to 300 gallons per minute, cost not to exceed \$5,500. Correspondence may be in English.

25939.*—An agency is desired by a man in Switzerland for the sale of book-binding machinery, machines for the manufacture of card-board boxes, paper cutters, and other tools and machinery used in connection with above-mentioned industry. Correspondence should be in German. Reference.

25940.*—A man in Peru desires to purchase a small plant for making absorbent cotton. Full instructions and information should be submitted. Quotations may be made f. o. b. New York. Payment will be made by cash against documents. Correspondence may be in English. References.

PRINCETON, N. J.

COMMERCE REPORTS



DAILY CONSULAR AND TRADE REPORTS
ISSUED DAILY BY THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE



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BRITISH ORDERS FOR RUM AND CARNAUBA TRADE.

[Cablegram from Consul General Skinner, London, Nov. 24.]

Order prohibiting purchase and sale of rum in bonded warehouses issued October 6 rescinded October 21. Order stating intention of Government to take possession of all stocks of carnauba wax issued July 11 rescinded. Dealings now unrestricted.

[For the original orders referred to above regarding carnauba wax and rum, see COMMERCE REPORTS for July 25 and Oct. 12, respectively.]

BRITISH CONCESSION FOR CLOCK MOVEMENTS.

[Cablegram from Consul General Skinner, London, Nov. 24.]

Controller of Import Restrictions announces concession under which 10 shipping tons per month of clock movements will be admitted into the United Kingdom for six months. This concession will include cheap alarm clocks not exceeding 10 shillings (\$2.43) each at factory and stock parts for repairs.

[The distribution of the quantities permitted for importation as stated above will probably be made under the supervision of a British Trade Committee, as has been done previously in similar cases. American manufacturers should instruct their agents in the United Kingdom to make application to the Controller of Import Restrictions, London, for import licenses. Statements as to quantities imported annually hitherto may be required as a basis for granting permits.]

CONDITION OF ALMERIA GRAPE EXPORT TRADE.

[Vice Consul Carlton Hurst, Almeria, Spain, Oct. 23; supplementing cablegram published in COMMERCE REPORTS for Oct. 18.]

Existing transportation difficulties between the United States and Spain are causing serious hardship to the grape exporters of Almeria. Up to the present 304,274 barrels of grapes (14,605,152 pounds) have been exported, against 1,401,231 barrels (67,259,088 pounds) during

the same period in 1916. Of these amounts about one-half was shipped to the United States. Approximately 300,000 barrels of grapes have now accumulated on the docks and in the warehouses awaiting vessels bound for the United States or England. To this number may be added a daily increase of over 25,000 barrels arriving from the interior of the Province. It is feared that, on account of the delay and exposure, much of the fruit will be unfit for consumption on reaching its destination.

Efforts are being made by the Asociacion Uvera of Almeria to urge the Spanish Government to relieve the situation by compelling various steamship companies to send their vessels to this port. So far, however, the results have been insufficient to cope with the exceptional circumstances prevailing.

FLOOD RUINS BANANA AND OTHER CROPS IN FRONTERA DISTRICT.

[Consul Thomas D. Bowman, Frontera, Tabasco, Mexico, Oct. 20.]

During the first three weeks of October the whole State of Tabasco was subjected to damages of varying extent as the result of flooding of most of the rivers following unprecedented rains. Frontera, which is on high ground, was undamaged, but the greater part of Villahermosa, the State capital, was flooded for two weeks.

Practically the entire banana crop has been ruined by this flood, and consequently the shipment of fruit from this port will be discontinued for a year very probably. It is estimated that 25 to 50 per cent of all other crops were damaged by the floods. Three crops a year are usually grown here. The crop just destroyed was the fall one, incidentally the best of the year. There can not be another crop before next spring. Hundreds of cattle were also drowned.

The results of this flood are anticipated with apprehension. The shortage of meat and corn in particular will be keenly felt. Prices of these products and sugar, bread, eggs, and other foodstuffs have increased considerably.

NECESSITY OF DEFINITE DATES IN CABLE QUOTATIONS.

Several misunderstandings between American exporters and foreign buyers have recently been brought to the attention of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce as a result of the neglect of the exporters to give definite information in a cable quotation relative to the length of time that the quotation holds good. When giving quotations by cable that are contingent upon prompt acceptance it is considered highly desirable that exporters state definitely in their cables the date on which the quotation will expire. They are also urged to cable promptly to foreign purchasers if the cable from the purchaser is received after the date fixed in the original cablegram. Cables are subject to more or less delay owing to the censorship and the press of Government business, and it is believed that misunderstandings will be avoided if a definite date is fixed for the expiration of all offers that require prompt acceptance and if the purchaser is promptly advised in case his acceptance is received too late.

TOBACCO CROP CONDITIONS IN GREEK MACEDONIA.

[Consul General George Horton, Saloniki, Oct. 18.]

The Greek Government has never published any data concerning crop conditions in Macedonia. The following information, relating to the tobacco crop, the principal product in this consular district, is obtained solely from private sources.

Filler leaf tobacco, unstemmed, is the chief article of export from Greek Macedonia, the value purchased in a normal year by American firms alone amounting to about \$6,000,000. Since the more important producing centers—Cavalla, Drama, Serres, etc.—are in the war zone, the export of a large part of the Greek Macedonian tobacco crop is impossible, and no information is available as to its condition and quantity.

Ordinarily, the quantity of tobacco raised in the districts near Saloniki is relatively small. According to general reports of purchasing agents from various points in this district, this condition has been greatly changed. It is estimated that in this region, as far south as the old Greek frontier, there are this year about 2,000,000 okes (5,640,000 pounds), which consist of all types of what is known as Turkish tobacco. This is an increase of fully 75 per cent over the amount of the 1916 crop. Moreover, if there had been more rain, the crop would have been 100 to 150 per cent larger than that of last year.

Quality of Crop.

According to the same reports, the quality of tobacco is, on the whole, fully as good if not better than in 1916. As mentioned above, the crop will consist of all types of Turkish tobacco. This is caused by the fact that many refugees from Samsun, Smyrna, and Thrace, bringing with them small quantities of tobacco seed, have planted in small fields, and, furthermore, on soil which has never before been used for tobacco, thus producing a type concerning which even the oldest and most experienced experts are unable to say whether or not it will improve with age.

Prices will probably be at least 100 per cent over those of last year. This is attributed to the increased competition, caused, no doubt, by the fact that the various merchants are unable to get their usual stocks from the Cavalla, Samsun, and Smyrna districts. Moreover, shipping facilities are now such that it is almost impossible for the foreign, including American, factories to be supplied with raw material; and local factories have received large orders to supply the Allied forces stationed in this district. It is also learned on good authority that the Egyptian factories have received large orders from the Allies for cigarettes, and that the merchants from that country are strong buyers.

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Business Failures in Holland.

Consul Frank W. Mahin reports from Amsterdam that the number of business failures in Holland during the first nine months of this year was 679, in comparison with 799 and 1,059 during the corresponding periods of 1916 and 1915, respectively. The number also declined in 1915 compared with 1914. Failures have decreased about one-half since the war began.

THE ALMOND INDUSTRY OF MALAGA.

[Consul Louis G. Dreyfus, Jr., Malaga, Spain, Oct. 10.]

One of the important industries carried on in the Malaga district is the growing and preparation of almonds for foreign markets. Almonds have been grown and exported from Malaga for over a century, and the exports have been gradually increasing from year to year.

The two principal varieties of this nut are known commercially as Jordans and Valencias. The former are indigenous to the district immediately around Malaga, which is the only place where they are successfully grown. This is probably due to the fact that the Jordan trees are very delicate and very susceptible to wind and frost when in blossom. The Jordan almond is somewhat more elongated and tapering than the Valencia.

The Valencia almond is much hardier than the Jordan variety. Curious enough, it does not grow to any extent in the Province of Valencia, but is scattered through the Peninsula, principally in the Provinces of Murcia, Almeria, Granada, Malaga, Jaen, Seville, and Huelva.

Almond Growing—Prices.

Almond trees are grown mostly in orchards in the valleys and along the coast. They blossom in January and February. From that time on the development of the nuts is gradual until July, when they ripen. The almonds are then beaten off the trees with sticks and are allowed to lie for a day or two in the sun to wither the husk as well as to dry the kernel. Once the husk is withered, husking is simple. The shelling is also done in the country. The shells are cracked on a stone with a bar of iron, and the kernels are extracted with the fingers.

The almonds, which are then ready for sale, are taken to Malaga in sacks of about 100 kilos (kilo=2.2046 pounds). They are disposed of to the exporters at prices agreed upon after viewing small samples of each different lot. The prices paid vary widely, depending upon the quality of the nut and the abundance of the crop. In recent years the difficulty of marketing the crop because of import restrictions in belligerent countries and the shortage of ocean transportation have had a great influence not only on the prices received by the exporters but also on the prices paid to the growers. The ante-bellum prices received by the growers ranged from 140 to 188 pesetas per 100 pounds for the Jordans and from 90 to 160 pesetas per 100 pounds for the Valencias, while this year the prices are 160 to 180 pesetas for Jordans and 92 to 108 pesetas for Valencias.

In 1905 the Compañia Almendrera, a syndicate known as the Almond Trust, was formed by the principal almond exporters in Malaga, to control the purchase of almonds from the growers and to eradicate certain abuses said to have been practiced by local speculators. It had nothing to do with the arrangements for the exportation of almonds, which feature was left to each individual house. The trust was dissolved in 1910. Since then prices have been governed wholly by agreements arrived at between growers and exporters.

Grading and Packing—Shipments from All Spain.

The large almond exporters prepare the almonds for shipment. Because of their uneven lengths and sizes the Jordan almonds can

not be graded by machinery, as is partly done with the Valencias, but are separated entirely by hand. The Jordans as they come from the country are emptied out on tables. Female labor picks out the imperfect nuts by hand, at the same time selecting the perfect ones into four sizes, weighing each a certain number of kernels to the ounce. These girl workers are paid from 1 peseta up per day, and some of them exhibit great skill and rapidity in the work. A good operator can grade 30 kilos of almonds in 7 hours. After they are selected, the nuts are placed in a rapidly rotating cylinder for polishing. This process lasts from 20 to 30 minutes. Nothing further remains to be done except to put the almonds into boxes for export.

The Malaga almonds are packed for shipment in pine boxes lined with oiled paper, each box holding 28 pounds. Sometimes the cases are strapped with metal bands. After the marks for shipping are stenciled on the boxes, they are ready to be taken to the docks and loaded aboard vessels.

There are no accurate figures giving the total production of Spanish almonds. According to the customs returns the exportation of almonds from all Spain for the past three years was: 1914—6,992 metric tons, value 11,976,604 pesetas; 1915—11,752 tons, value 21,127,032 pesetas; 1916—9,772 tons, value 17,185,976 pesetas. (The metric ton is equivalent to 2,204.6 pounds.) Of the 21,127,032 pesetas worth exported in 1915 about 29 per cent went to Great Britain, 27 per cent to the United States, 8 per cent to France, 5 per cent to Cuba, 4 per cent to the Argentine Republic, and the remainder was distributed among the Scandinavian countries, Brazil, and Holland. According to the customs statistics the exports of almonds from Malaga alone in 1916 were 2,063 tons, of which the United States took 49 per cent, Great Britain 35 per cent, Cuba 10 per cent, and Brazil 3 per cent.

Declared Exports from Malaga to United States.

The American consulate at Malaga was established in 1797; however, the records from that date until 1818 are very incomplete. A book of outward manifests, in which the first entries were made in September, 1818, shows a shipment of 40 boxes of soft-shelled almonds for Boston per brig *William L. James*. In October of the same year Jordan almonds are mentioned for the first time.

The following statistics of declared exports from Malaga to the United States from 1883 to date are an index of the development of the almond industry in this district:

Years.	Value.	Years.	Value.	Years.	Value.
1883.....	\$65,198	1895.....	\$200,307	1906.....	\$500,700
1884.....	85,496	1896.....	202,974	1907.....	641,633
1885.....	81,657	1897.....	248,947	1908.....	507,559
1886.....	72,969	1898.....	309,715	1909.....	864,697
1887.....	87,806	1899.....	380,664	1910.....	655,828
1888.....	108,180	1900.....	379,970	1911.....	823,706
1889.....	177,044	1901.....	397,999	1912.....	785,491
1890.....	185,900	1902.....	451,594	1913.....	1,162,436
1901.....	282,713	1903.....	526,990	1914.....	705,491
1902.....	225,654	1904.....	517,076	1915.....	923,277
1903.....	209,889	1905.....	537,170	1916.....	921,031
1904.....	246,241				

The above figures were converted at the Treasury rate of the gold peseta, which is 19.3 cents. The present exchange value of the peseta is about 23 cents.

RECENT DECREES BY ITALIAN GOVERNMENT.

[Consul General David F. Wilber, Genoa, Oct. 27.]

Maximum Prices for Raw and Worked Sulphur.

A new ministerial decree establishes maximum prices for raw and worked sulphur. Sale prices for raw sulphur which were fixed by the obligatory association for the Sicilian sulphur industry, and approved by ministerial decree on August 8, 1917, are increased by 7.50 lire the quintal of 220.46 pounds.

The maximum prices for worked sulphur are: Refined in bricks, 55.72 lire; refined in sticks, 56.22 lire (packing extra); sublimated, 64.07 lire (jute sacks of 50 kilos); raw ground, 53.96 lire; refined ground—from 60 to 65 per cent of fineness, 62.27 lire (jute sacks of 50 kilos); from 65 to 70 per cent, 62.72 lire; from 70 to 75 per cent, 63.37 lire; refined sifted—from 75 to 80 per cent of fineness, 64.22 lire; from 80 to 85 per cent, 65.22 lire; from 85 to 90 per cent, 66.72 lire.

These prices are for packing in jute canvas. For packing in four sacks of cotton canvas containing 25 kilos each, an increase is allowed of 3.75 lire per quintal of sublimated and of 3.40 lire per quintal of sifted. The prices for worked sulphur are understood as at Catania, Licata, Porto Empedocle, Termini Imerese, f. o. b., or on car at station. For sales at other localities in Sicily the prices of worked sulphur are increased by the expenses of transportation as shown by invoice, and by the loss through diminution, which can not exceed 1 per cent, and will be applicable only to refined sulphur in bricks.

Increased Cost in Various Sections.

The sale prices on the continent and in the islands (Sicily excluded) for raw sulphur are to be those fixed by the Sicilian Sulphur Association with an increase of 7.50 lire per quintal, and are to be increased by the costs of transportation from the various places in the island to the place of destination, as shown by invoice or established by calculation (based on the railway tariff increased by 20 per cent, as well as the loss by diminution to the maximum amount of 2 per cent).

The prices for worked sulphur are to be those here given, increased by transportation costs, which are calculated as already stated; and loss by diminution, which can not be more than 1 per cent and will be applicable solely to refined sulphur in bricks.

The price of ground sulphur mineral, containing a minimum of 25 per cent in sulphur, is fixed at 10.28 lire per quintal, packing extra (reckoning jute canvas at 3.75 lire per kilo), on car at station.

For the sale of worked sulphur and of ground sulphur mineral there is allowed a margin of profit in favor of the seller not exceeding 2 per cent of the prices first indicated in this decree for lots of 10 quintals and more and a margin of profit not exceeding 4 per cent for lots of less than 10 quintals.

Sulphur of a fineness higher than 90 per cent, washed sulphur, sulphur for medicinal use, and flowers of sulphur are not contemplated in the present decree.

Census of Colored and Uncolored Cotton Waste.

A new decree by the Minister of Arms and Munitions orders that the administrators of industrial establishments and of hospitals, merchants, and forwarding agents who are holders of cotton waste, colored or uncolored, in whatever way obtained, in cotton mills or in mills for weaving and spinning, in workshops for refitting of garments, in the operations of beating or sweeping in the manufactories, in the collection of refuse, and in any other way whatsoever shall declare it to the district military technical offices that supply raw material for explosives, as dependencies of the Ministry of Arms and Munitions. The obligation to make declaration is extended also to all those who by any title whatsoever are holders of cotton waste and refuse cotton cloth exceeding in quantity 25 kilos (55.12 pounds), or are holders of absorbent cotton in quantity exceeding 30 kilos (66.14 pounds), and not destined for sanitary services in conformity with the office or the profession of the holders.

Declarations Required Twice Each Month.

The declaration, it was required, should be made in writing and be sent by registered letter not later than October 30, 1917, but afterwards during the war it must be repeated periodically at intervals of 15 days, not later than the 15th and the 30th of each month.

The first declaration, it was ordered, should contain the precise indication of the amounts of waste and refuse cloth existing in the storehouse, specified as to quality and kind according to the usual commercial denominations, as well as an indication of their source, stating whether they are of direct production or have been collected, and the successive declarations must contain for the variations in stock which shall have eventually occurred in the preceding 15 days notice of the source of the amounts entered with name, surname, and residence of seller, and price agreed upon, for the amounts issued the name, surname, and residence of the purchaser, the price agreed upon, and the destination of the goods according to the habitual use on the part of the purchaser.

Payments by Paper Mills.

A decree of the Minister for Industry, Commerce, and Labor imposes a proportional payment on all paper mills having a mean monthly production of more than 1,000 quintals of 220.46 pounds each. All such paper mills are obliged to pay to a general fund, which was established February 18, 1917, a sum proportional to their production at the rate of 5 lire for every quintal of paper, excluding that for newspapers.

Reciprocity in Treatment of Motor Vehicles.

A new Italian law decree concerning reciprocity of treatment as regards auto vehicles owned by foreigners was published September 25. It provided that the application of the regulations in force as to treatment in regard to internal tax for circulation upon public areas, of velocipedes, motorcycles, automobiles, and auto craft for private use, imported temporarily from a foreign country and belonging to persons residing in a foreign country, should be made dependent on the existences of reciprocity of treatment on the part of the foreign country in which the possessor of the vehicle that has been temporarily imported resides.

ESTIMATED CROP YIELDS IN UNITED KINGDOM.

[Consul E. Haldeman Dennison, Birmingham, England, Nov. 8.]

The Board of Agriculture has just issued an estimate of the grain, pulse, and hay crops in England and Wales for 1917, according to which the yields are much better than had been anticipated earlier in the year as the very unfavorable harvest weather had given rise to pessimistic reports of loss in bulk as well as in quality.

Wheat has proved to be the most satisfactory crop. It was feared that the shortage of labor and the bad seeding time in the autumn of 1916 would result in a decrease in the acreage under this crop, but the farmers were able to more than recover the loss during the spring. The total production of wheat in England and Wales is now estimated at 59,122,684 bushels, or 2,716,897 bushels more than in 1916, and the yield per acre is given at 29.88 bushels, as against 28.60 bushels last year. Both these figures are somewhat below the 10 years' average (1907-1916). This was inevitable as under war conditions soil fertility could not be maintained at such a high level as in normal times. The yield per acre must therefore be considered as highly satisfactory.

Other Grains—Smaller Yield of Hay.

Barley and oats show a smaller yield per acre than in 1916, but larger in total production because of the greater area sown. It has been a very unfavorable year for beans, the yield being only about one-half that for 1916. This crop is the smallest recorded since 1885, both in total output and in yield per acre. While the production of peas shows a slight improvement, it was still much below normal.

The total production of hay from clover and rotation grasses is given as 2,405,468 long tons, as compared with 2,898,894 tons the previous year, due to a considerable drop in the yield per acre—4.29 hundredweight less than in 1916 and nearly 1 hundredweight below the 10-year average. Hay from permanent grass is also less than in 1916 by some 800,000 tons, the yield per acre in this case being over 3 hundredweight less than last year and 1½ hundredweight under the average for the decade. (The British hundredweight equals 112 pounds.) Taking all kinds of hay together, the total production is 7,555,005 tons, which is 1,282,585 tons less than in 1916 but nearly 1,000,000 tons more than the total production in 1915.

Comparative Summary of Production.

The following table shows the estimated total production and the yield per acre of the grain, pulse, and hay crops in England and Wales in 1917, with comparisons for 1916, and the average yield per acre of the 10 years 1907-1916:

Crops.	Estimated production.		Estimated yield per acre.		Average yield per acre, 1907-1916.
	1917	1916	1917	1916	
	<i>Bushels.</i>	<i>Bushels.</i>	<i>Bushels.</i>	<i>Bushels.</i>	<i>Bushels.</i>
Wheat.....	59,122,684	56,406,787	29.88	28.60	31.69
Barley.....	45,712,079	49,788,001	30.36	31.11	32.44
Oats.....	89,672,545	85,911,019	38.49	39.95	41.08
Beans.....	3,680,480	7,118,283	17.16	34.19	29.69
Peas.....	2,284,938	2,152,366	21.51	24.40	25.69
	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Cwt.</i>	<i>Cwt.</i>	<i>Cwt.</i>
Seeds, hay.....	2,405,468	2,898,894	28.00	32.60	32.54
Meadow hay.....	5,149,537	4,988,786	21.48	24.08	26.19

The Board of Agriculture's statement does not include potatoes, but a rough estimate which has been unofficially circulated places the yield at 8,000,000 tons for the whole United Kingdom, if Scotland and Ireland, as anticipated, have made up the heavy loss of last year and have added substantially to the average under this crop.

[Vice Consul Thomas H. Bevan, Glasgow, Scotland, Nov. 6.]

Agricultural Returns for Scotland.

The preliminary official statement of the agricultural returns for Scotland shows that the total area under all crops and grass amounts to 4,776,200 acres, an increase of only 694 acres as compared with 1916, the arable land having increased by 56,601 acres, while the land under permanent grass is less by 55,907 acres. The area under wheat has decreased by 2,011 acres, or 3.2 per cent, and that under barley by 10,325 acres, or 6.1 per cent, while the oat acreage shows an increase of 49,782 acres, or 5 per cent, and exceeds 1,000,000 acres for the first time since the year 1896. The total area under the cereal crops (including rye, which is practically unaltered) has thus increased by 37,443 acres, or 3 per cent, as compared with the area in 1916. Beans to be harvested as grain show an increase of 837 acres, or 15.4 per cent, while vetches, tares, maslin, etc., for fodder, have increased by 898 acres, or 8.6 per cent.

The area under potatoes is greater by 17,576 acres, or 13.5 per cent, while that under turnips is less by 466 acres, or 0.1 per cent. Rape and cabbage show large decreases, amounting in the case of the former to 3,503 acres, or 44.6 per cent, and in the latter to 1,196 acres, or 25.6 per cent. The area under rye grass and other rotation grasses and clover has increased by 6,322 acres, or 0.4 per cent, the area for hay being greater by 988 acres and that for pasture by 5,334 acres. Permanent grass shows a net decrease of 55,907 acres, or 3.8 per cent, the pasture being diminished by 59,328 acres, or 4.5 per cent, while the area for hay has increased by 3,421 acres, or 2.1 per cent.

Area Devoted to Different Crops.

The area devoted to the different crops in Scotland during 1915, 1916, and 1917 was, according to the preliminary returns already quoted:

Crops.	1915	1916	1917
	<i>Acres.</i>	<i>Acres.</i>	<i>Acres.</i>
Total area (excluding water).....	19,089,683	19,089,683	19,089,683
Total acreage under all crops and grass a.....	4,781,397	4,775,586	4,776,280
Arable land.....	3,289,902	3,308,741	3,369,342
Permanent grass:—			
For hay.....	154,685	159,223	162,644
Not for hay.....	1,336,810	1,312,542	1,253,214
Total.....	1,491,495	1,471,765	1,415,858
Wheat.....	76,654	63,083	61,072
Barley.....	149,346	169,739	189,494
Oats.....	982,601	990,569	1,048,271
Rye.....	4,812	5,742	5,739
Beans (to be harvested as grain).....	5,382	5,440	6,277
Peas.....	665	591	676
Potatoes.....	144,363	130,119	147,695
Turnips and swedes.....	420,985	414,320	439,984
Mangolds.....	2,503	2,347	2,632

a Excluding mountain and heath land used for grazing (9,037,334 acres in 1917).

Crops.	1915	1916	1917
	<i>Acres.</i>	<i>Acres.</i>	<i>Acres.</i>
Cabbage.....	4,809	4,673	3,477
Rape.....	6,290	7,862	4,350
Vetches or tares, for maslin, seed.....	957	704	426
Vetches, tares, beans, etc., for fodder.....	10,167	10,495	11,393
Lucerne.....	14	13	16
Carrots.....	384	462	644
Onions.....	195	183	218
Flax.....	37	17	26
Small fruit.....	7,054	7,127	6,813
Rye grass and other rotation grasses and clover:			
For hay.....	390,105	420,099	421,087
Not for hay.....	1,073,881	1,060,230	1,065,564
Total.....	1,463,986	1,480,329	1,486,651
Other crops.....	1,683	1,711	1,854
Bare fallow.....	5,974	8,195	6,715
Orchards ^a	1,489	1,520	1,645

^a Any crop or grass grown in orchards is also returned under its proper heading.

Live-Stock Returns.

The live-stock returns show that horses have increased in number, while cattle, sheep, and pigs have decreased. Horses used for agricultural purposes are more numerous by 1,680, or 1.3 per cent, and unbroken horses of one year and above by 2,466, or 7.1 per cent, but those under one year are fewer by 1,226, or 8.2 per cent, and other horses by 480, or 2 per cent. Horses of all classes have thus increased by 2,440, or 1.2 per cent.

Cows in milk are fewer by 8,538, or 2.4 per cent, while cows in calf have increased by 4,053, or 9.9 per cent, and heifers in calf by 4,707, or 10.4 per cent. The total number of breeding and milking cattle has thus increased by 222. Other cattle of two years and above are fewer by 8,899, or 3.7 per cent, those of one year and under two by 5,757, or 1.9 per cent, and those under one year by 4,288, or 1.7 per cent. The whole number of cattle shows a decrease of 18,722, or 1.5 per cent.

Breeding ewes are more numerous by 3,265, or 0.1 per cent, but other sheep of one year and above are fewer by 38,461, or 3.1 per cent, and lambs by 164,426, or 5.9 per cent. Sheep as a whole are thus fewer by 199,622 or 2.8 per cent.

Sows kept for breeding have decreased in number by 2,809, or 16 per cent, and other pigs by 11,036, or 8.6 per cent, the total decrease amounting to 13,845, or 9.5 per cent.

Comparative Data for Past Three Years.

The following table was compiled from returns collected on June 4, 1917. Data for the two preceding years are given for comparison:

Live stock.	Number of animals.		
	1915	1916	1917
Horses used for agricultural purposes (including mares for breeding)...	128,953	133,463	135,143
Unbroken horses (including stallions):			
One year and above.....	32,422	34,511	36,977
Under 1 year.....	13,293	14,904	13,678
Total.....	174,668	182,878	185,796
Other horses.....	24,036	24,412	23,932
Total of horses.....	198,704	207,290	209,730

Live stock.	Number of animals.		
	1915	1916	1917
Cows in milk.....	361,077	354,408	345,870
Cows in calf, but not in milk.....	43,337	41,056	45,109
Heifers in calf.....	44,779	43,312	50,019
Other cattle:			
Two years and above.....	229,002	229,254	220,355
One year and under 2.....	233,802	237,620	291,863
Under 1 year.....	251,336	248,724	244,436
Total of cattle.....	1,223,933	1,226,874	1,207,652
Ewes kept for breeding.....	3,004,908	3,018,780	3,022,045
Other sheep:			
One year and above.....	1,219,490	1,253,733	1,215,272
Under 1 year.....	2,851,400	2,783,851	2,618,925
Total of sheep.....	7,075,798	7,065,804	6,856,242
Sows kept for breeding.....	17,652	17,688	14,779
Other pigs.....	141,405	128,802	117,706
Total of pigs.....	159,057	146,390	132,545

BRITISH CONSERVATION OF WASTE FATS FROM ARMY CAMPS.

[Consul Harry A. McBride, London, Nov. 6.]

Among the various British schemes for the conservation of waste material is that for the collection and disposal of all waste fats and bones at camps in Great Britain and France. In response to the request of the consulate general for information concerning the various schemes, the British Committee on the Purchase of Army Camp Refuse writes as follows:

On its inception the committee allocated the whole of the United Kingdom to certain approved buyers, each of which took a district adjacent to their works. An Army Council Order was then issued instructing all units to apply to the committee for directions as to the disposal of kitchen by-products. Rapid headway was made, and in the first month £7,500 was returned to units. This amount was doubled the second month and trebled in the third, and has made progress month by month until over £80,000 per month is now paid to the units for material that was hitherto wasted.

The commodities dealt in are all kitchen by-products, viz, drippings, bones, butchers' fat and greaves, all of which are of paramount importance for the production of soap, candles, and fertilizers, and all, of course, are glycerin-producing materials. With the much-restricted imports of foreign and colonial tallow, the great scarcity of fats and oils has long been experienced in this country, and the material collected under the auspices of this committee have been sufficient to provide the whole of the requirements of soap for the navy, army, asylums, workhouses, and other institutions and leaves a very substantial balance for public use.

The glycerin produced from the commodities is sufficient at the present time to provide the propellant for 17,000,000 shells per annum. The prices are fixed monthly and all units advised of same. The Army Council are represented on the committee. Publicity takes the form of charts, memoranda, etc., which are posted up in the naval and army cookhouses.

The scheme has been extended to the naval forces, even units of the Grand Fleet; also to the troops over-seas.

Samples of t'utzu and t'o-shen, two minerals which are employed in the manufacture of Chinese wood oil, as described in COMMERCE REPORTS for July 16, 1917, have been forwarded from Hankow by Vice Consul R. C. Mackay. They may be inspected at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district offices. Refer to file No. 88616.

FOREIGN TARIFFS.**ARGENTINA.****Increase in Cost of Trade-Mark Registration.**

Information has been received from the Argentine law firm of Obligado & Co. to the effect that publication of applications for trade-mark registration, amendment, or cancellation in Argentina will hereafter be at the expense of the applicant. A charge of 12 pesos paper, or \$5.09, will be made for the publication of notices the required number of times.

From the same source it is learned that the Chilean tax on patents has been doubled. This is probably by virtue of the law of September 21, 1917, doubling all stamp taxes, to which reference was made in **COMMERCE REPORTS** for November 8, 1917.

CUBA.

[Document forwarded by Gustave Scholle, Secretary of Embassy, Habana.]

Export Embargoes.

In pursuance of the policy of supporting the exports control of the United States Government, the President of Cuba has issued a decree dated October 4 requiring that a license shall be obtained from the Secretary of the Treasury for the exportation of articles named in the proclamation of August 27 by the President of the United States. An order based on the President's proclamation of July 9 was issued as Customs Circular No. 21 on September 26 (see **COMMERCE REPORTS** for Nov. 9).

GRENADA.**Withdrawal of Import Prohibition.**

The import prohibition of July, 1917, affecting the Windward Islands (Grenada, St. Vincent, and St. Lucia) is no longer in force in Grenada. As stated by the British Board of Trade Journal for October 25, the revocation of the prohibition dates from August 25, 1917. Motor and other vehicles, firearms, electrical apparatus, and certain articles of luxury make up the list of goods which are thus exempted from the restriction. No information is given as to whether similar action is to be taken in St. Vincent and St. Lucia. (See **COMMERCE REPORTS** for July 25 for notice as to the original proclamation.)

LIBIA.

[Gazzette Ufficiale, Sept. 22.]

Exemption for Agricultural Supplies.

In the effort to encourage agriculture in the African colonies of Tripoli and Cyrenaica, the Italian Government has granted the free admission into these colonies of various kinds of machinery and supplies in addition to those formerly admitted free under the law of November, 1914. The complete free list is now as follows: Agricultural machines, detached and spare parts and motors for their operation; agricultural implements and apparatus and equipment for stock raising, bee keeping, and the raising of poultry and silkworms; pumps and motors for irrigation; materials for digging or boring wells; cereals for sowing and seeds in general; plants, grafts, and

shoots (except vine grafts and shoots), and potatoes; organic fertilizers (guano, dried blood, compost, etc., not including dung) and chemical fertilizers, even if prepared for use; fungicides, including sulphur and copper sulphate; stakes and canes for supporting plants; breeding animals, bees, and silkworm eggs; and by-products for stock feed (oilseed cake and beet cake). No limit is placed upon the duration of this exemption.

The tariff changes of 1914, applying to Libia (Tripoli), are set forth in Foreign Tariff Notes No. 15, p. 46.

UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA.

Reduced Duty on Coffee, Tea, and Oils.

The Customs and Excise Duties Act, 1917, forwarded by Consul John P. Bray, Johannesburg, extends until June 30, 1918, the operation of the tariff changes of 1915, provides for the exemption from excise duties of motor spirits (gasoline) manufactured in the Union and used for internal combustion engines, and makes considerable reductions in the duty on coffee, tea, and certain mineral oils imported into the Union. In all but one case the reduction consists in restoring the lower duties in effect previous to the tariff changes of 1915, which are set forth in full in Foreign Tariff Notes No. 17, page 128. The extension of the increase to cover the year 1916-17 was announced in Foreign Tariff Notes No. 21, page 162. The schedule of the present changes is on file in the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

A NEW HIDE AND LEATHER COMPANY FOR BANGKOK.

[Vice Consul Carl C. Hansen, Bangkok, Siam.]

The Government Gazette announces the registration of a new business venture under the name of the Siam Hide and Leather Co. (Ltd.), with a capital of 150,000 ticals (\$55,500). The promoters are of American, French, and Danish nationality. The object of this company is to tan hides by native tanning materials, and also to ship dry and pickled hides and native tanning products to the United States and other countries. A convenient location on the west side of the river at Bangkok has been secured, and tanning, together with the shipping of hides, will begin forthwith under the management of experienced American tanners.

NEW OIL-CLEANING SEPARATOR.

[Vice Consul Arthur E. J. Reilly, Stockholm, Sweden, Oct. 16.]

An oil-cleaning separator has recently been introduced in the Swedish market by the Aktiebolaget Separator. Great quantities of oil go to waste in manufacturing and other establishments, which if cleaned could be used again. The separator frees the oil from all foreign matter and makes it ready for use again. The separator resembles the old milk separators and can be operated either by hand or electricity. Two kinds are being manufactured, the one cleaning 150 and the other about 250 liters an hour. The oil separators are already in use in many large factories on the Continent.

ESTIMATES OF CROPS IN THE ANTUNG DISTRICT.

[Consul John K. Davis, Antung, China, Oct. 26.]

The entire absence of official statistics covering the crops that are grown in the Antung district and the doubtful accuracy of all estimates make it very difficult to obtain any except the most general idea of the amounts of the crops that are produced each year. The following estimates, however, have been made with the greatest possible care, covering the production of the Antung district in 1917: Beans (including soya beans), 462,134 tons; corn, 464,334 tons; kaoliang (sorghum or kaffir corn), 65,934 tons; millet, 14,064 tons; total, 1,006,466 tons.

In general, the crops of beans and cereals amounted to only 70 per cent of the yields of normal years. This decrease is accounted for by the unseasonable drought in the spring, the abnormal concentration of rain in certain weeks of the summer, and the unusual number of insect pests, fungi, and rusts which directly resulted from the uneven precipitation of moisture. The heaviest decrease was in beans and the lightest in kaoliang.

Large Proportions are Exported.

The customs returns do not show the exports of the produce grown in this district separately from that grown throughout Manchuria and only exported through the port of Antung, so that it is impossible to ascertain the proportion of locally grown produce which is exported. It may safely be stated, however, that to a large extent the beans grown are exported either in their natural state ("raw beans") or manufactured into bean oil and bean cake, and that large portions of the millet crops also are not consumed in the district.

While there are no direct exports of bean oil to the United States, a considerable percentage of the exports to Shanghai and Japan eventually is consumed in America. Bean cake is largely exported to South China ports and to Japan, where it is used as fertilizer for rice and as a cattle feed. Millet is exported chiefly to Chosen (Korea) where the natives, who themselves grow rice, use it as a food and in turn export their rice to Manchuria. As rice is much the more expensive food of the two cereals, this form of exchange results in a good margin of profit for the Koreans.

NEW ARGENTINE SHIPPING COMPANY.

[Consul General W. Henry Robertson, Buenos Aires, Oct. 10.]

A National Government decree dated July 10, 1917, authorized the working of a new Argentine shipping company formed in the city of Buenos Aires under the name of Lloyd Americano, Sociedad Anonima de Navegacion, concerning which the following supplementary details taken from the Review of the River Plate may be of interest:

The working of the company was authorized by Government decree of July 10. Domicile, the city of Buenos Aires, with the right to open branches anywhere within or outside the Republic. Duration fixed at 50 years, with right to prolong. Objects, to undertake any business related directly or indirectly with the industry of maritime and fluvial navigation; to construct, buy, sell, lease, charter, and administer steamers, ships, and floating craft of all classes, to establish and to operate regular lines or services, and in general to carry on the business of shipowners, charterers, land transport, river and maritime transport,

lighters, stevedores, purveyors, and agents; to construct, acquire, and dispose of, lease, administer, contract for, and exploit any stores, depots, installations, docks, ports, breakwaters, loading and landing stages, dry docks, cranes, railways, tramways, and any other goods and properties.

Capital, 2,500,000 pesos paper [\$1,061,250 at exchange of \$0.4245], divided into 2,500 shares. The initial subscription has been for 500 shares, of which 10 per cent was paid up, the remaining 90 per cent to be called up as and when determined by the board. The other shares will be issued as and when the board may decide. The financial year is to run from January 1 to December 31. The first board of directors is composed of: President, Alberto A. Dodero; vice president, José A. Dodero; members, Enrique Dodero, Luis Dodero, and Nicolas Dodero; syndic, Gerard A. Smink, syndic-alternate, J. B. Sullivan.

It will be noticed that the Dodero family are the owners of the Lloyd Americano, which company, however, is entirely distinct and separate from the regular ship brokerage and agency of the firm of Dodero Hermanos.

PROPOSED 24-HOUR CLOCK FOR SWITZERLAND.

[Vice Consul Frank Bohr, Zurich, Oct. 20.]

According to newspaper reports the Swiss Association for Geophysics, Meteorology, and Astronomy has petitioned the Federal Council to adopt the 24-hour clock as the official method of reckoning time in place of the two divisions of 12 hours each now employed. It is stated that the general staff of the Swiss army, the directors of the Federal railways, the Federal post office, and telegraph and customs departments have also expressed themselves in favor of this change.

PROPOSALS FOR GOVERNMENT SUPPLIES AND CONSTRUCTION.

[Correspondence should be direct with the offices named, and specifications and other information can usually be obtained at the points where the goods are to be delivered or the work is to be performed. In cases where the time limit is too short to permit firms to submit tenders, they should ask to be placed on the mailing lists of such offices to receive notices calling for future supplies or work of a similar nature.]

Truck chains, No. 4937.—Sealed proposals will be received at the general depot of the Quartermaster Corps, War Department, 3615 Iron Street, Chicago, Ill., until December 1, 1917, for furnishing and delivering f. o. b. place of manufacture 6,300 sets of antiskid truck chains and holders for motor trucks with solid tires.

Subsistence supplies, No. 4938.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the depot quartermaster, 211 American Bank Building, Kansas City, Mo., until November 30, 1917, for furnishing and delivering at Kansas City, Mo., on or before December 15, 1917, canned corned beef, canned corned-beef hash, dried codfish, pickled mackerel, canned salmon, hard bread, white and yellow corn meal, baking powder, beans, rice, canned tomatoes, prunes, evaporated apples and peaches, canned jam, coffee, tea, salt, spices, sirup, brooms, brushes, candles, etc.

Building construction, No. 4939.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Coast Guard headquarters, Navy Department, Washington, D. C., until January 4, 1918, for constructing new buildings and accessories for Coast Guard station No. 214, Barataria Bay, Grande Isle, La.

Steam-heating system, No. 4940.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of Indian Affairs, Department of the Interior, Washington, D. C., until December 27, 1917, for furnishing material and labor for the installation of a steam-heating system at Shawnee, Okla.

Repair of tender, No. 4941.—Sealed proposals will be received by the lighthouse inspector, San Francisco, Cal., for docking and repairing tender *Sequoia*.

Sewer system, No. 4942.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of Indian Affairs, Department of the Interior, Washington, D. C., until December 26, 1917, for furnishing material and labor for the construction of sewer system, water-supply intake, and reservoir at Ute Mountain, Colo.

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the Bureau and its district and cooperative offices. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and state opportunity number. The Bureau does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases. Symbols: * Reported by American consular officers; † Reported by commercial attachés and commercial agents; ‡ Direct inquiries received by the Bureau.

In considering the following "opportunities" special regard should be had to the laws and regulations governing export licenses and trading with the enemy.

Electric plant.....	25941	Rice machinery.....	25946, 25947
Flour mills.....	25946	Rosin.....	25943
Glass, window.....	25948	Steam pumps.....	25944
Machinery.....	25942, 25945	Valves.....	25950
Moldings, picture frame.....	25949		

- 25941.*—A city council of a foreign Government desires to receive bids for establishing an electric plant according to plans and specifications, with sufficient capacity for public and private lighting, as well as for the sale of electric power and energy. Bids will be received until March 20, 1918, at 5 o'clock in the afternoon without any further extension of time. Persons desiring to take part in the contest may obtain copies of the proposal, as well as all information which may be necessary, from the city council.
- 25942.†—A man in Mexico desires to be placed in communication with American manufacturers and exporters who are able to supply the complete machinery and equipment for a small match factory, including the machinery to work up the match timber. Correspondence may be in English.
- 25943.†—A manufacturing firm in England desires to buy large quantities of American rosin of G grade quality. If desired, prices may be quoted c. l. f. London. Reference.
- 25944.*—The fire department of a city in Canada is in the market for three steam pumps of 1,000 to 1,200 gallons. The department proposes to make other improvements in fire-fighting apparatus.
- 25945.†—A man in France who has recently been in the United States studying the industrial and commercial conditions desires to receive catalogues and all possible information from American manufacturers and exporters of paving and road-building machinery.
- 25946.*—The military commissary of a foreign Government is in the market for two animal-propelled flour mills with a capacity to grind 125 liters of flour per hour, and all bolting or sifting appliances necessary to make bread flour; also a machine to decorticate rice, with a capacity of 800 kilos of white rice per hour, this machine to be operated by motor. These machines should be strong and simple, and accompanied by full instructions for mounting or installing. The machinery will be paid for after delivery. It is desired that the delivery be made as soon as possible.
- 25947.†—A man in West Africa desires to receive catalogues and full information in regard to rice machinery, with a view to purchasing such equipment. He acts as salesman for a firm in the United States.
- 25948.*—A man in India desires to purchase and secure an agency for the sale of window glass, 6, 8, 10, 12, and 16 ounces per square foot. Payment will be made by cash against documents. Correspondence may be in English. Reference.
- 25949.*—A man in England wishes to buy picture-frame moldings. He also desires to entertain an agency proposition.
- 25950.*—An agency is desired by a commission agent in Spain for the sale of valves. Correspondence should be in Spanish. References.

OFFICES OF THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE.

DISTRICT OFFICES.

NEW YORK: 734 Customhouse.
 BOSTON: 1801 Customhouse.
 CHICAGO: 504 Federal Building.
 ST. LOUIS: 403 Third National Bank Building.
 NEW ORLEANS: 1020 Hibernia Bank Building.
 SAN FRANCISCO: 307 Customhouse.
 SEATTLE: 848 Heary Building.

COOPERATIVE OFFICES.

CLEVELAND: Chamber of Commerce.
 CINCINNATI: Chamber of Commerce.
 CINCINNATI: General Freight Agent, Southern Railway, 96 Ingalls Building.
 LOS ANGELES: Chamber of Commerce.
 PHILADELPHIA: Chamber of Commerce.
 CHATTANOOGA: South American Agent, Southern Railway System.
 PORTLAND, OREG.: Chamber of Commerce.
 DAYTON: Greater Dayton Association.

COMMERCE REPORTS



DAILY CONSULAR AND TRADE REPORTS
ISSUED DAILY BY THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

For sale by the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C., at \$2.50 per year



No. 280 Washington, D. C., Friday, November 30 1917

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PRICE FIXED FOR SICILIAN CITRATE OF LIME.

Consul Robertson Honey cables from Catania, Italy, that pursuant to ministerial decree affecting Sicily and Calabria, Messina Chamber of Commerce fixes price of citrate of lime at 433 lire per quintal.

BRITISH RESTRICTIONS ON USE OF CREAM.

A cablegram from the American consul general at London states that the sale and use of cream will be prohibited in Great Britain after December 8, 1917, except for infants, invalids, and for butter making.

IRELAND'S TRADE IN COTTON TEXTILES.

[Consul Edward L. Adams, Dublin.]

It is probable that the proportion of the people of Ireland who wear woollens or heavier dress is larger than that in the United States. This is due principally to the character of the climate, but in part it may also be attributable to the fact that in normal times woolen clothing is perhaps cheaper here than in the United States. Nevertheless there is a substantial consumption of cotton textiles. The imports of cotton goods into Ireland in 1914 amounted to 430,870 hundredweight, valued approximately at \$23,500,000. In 1915 the imports increased to 509,660 hundredweight, valued at \$30,500,000. The exports of cotton goods from Ireland in 1914 amounted to 206,834 hundredweight, valued at \$11,000,000, and in 1915 the exports were 208,225 hundredweight, valued at \$12,000,000.

Imports from the United States.

In the year ended June 30, 1915, cotton wearing apparel, consisting of knitted goods to the value of \$9,310, was imported into Ireland from the United States. Other cotton wearing apparel for the same year amounted to \$814, and all other manufactures of cotton amounted to \$6,865. The figures show that except for unmanufactured cotton the imports into Ireland from the United States were

comparatively insignificant, amounting to less than \$17,000. Unmanufactured cotton for the same period was valued at \$876,628.

Ireland exported to the United States during the year ended June 30, 1915, manufactures of cotton to a much greater value. The amounts by classes were:

Cotton manufactures.	Quantity.	Value.	Cotton manufactures.	Quantity.	Value.
Thread.....pounds..	30,123	\$13,805	Pushes, velvets, and velveteens, square yards.....	932	\$280
Cloths:			Wearing apparel, knit goods.....		12,935
Unbleached...square yards..	134,370	10,653	Wearing apparel, all other.....		549
Bleached.....do.....	1,348,037	148,575	All other manufactures of cotton.....		173,465
Colored.....do.....	1,078,608	116,826			
Handkerchiefs or mufflers.....		115,441			
Laces, embroideries, etc.....		31,049			

Dublin's share of these imports and exports can not be exactly stated, but it is probably in proportion to its population, which is about 400,000, including the suburban district, while that of the entire country is slightly more than 4,000,000.

[A list of dealers in dry goods at Dublin may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 92949.]

MARKET FOR KONGO GUM COPAL DESIRED.

[Vice Consul Harry A. McBride, London, England.]

Before the war practically all of Kongo's large output of gum copal was marketed through brokers in Antwerp, but after the outbreak of hostilities the dealers moved to England, and the Belgian steamers now bring the product to Hull. Thus England became the only market for this article, which is one of the chief products entering into the export trade of the Belgian colony.

Last year between 6,000 and 7,000 tons were imported, and the demand gave evidence of a probable increase in trade. The outlook has changed, however, since the restrictions on the importation of this article into the United Kingdom. This regulation limited the amount of imports to one-third of last year's supplies or about 2,000 tons. The producers in Kongo are now faced with the problem of finding a market for this year's output of copal, and failure to do so would have serious results both upon the firms interested in the trade and upon the commercial position of the colony.

Sorting of Copal for Shipment.

Copal is usually shipped to Europe unsorted, and the dealers then carefully sort the product into about eight different qualities, depending chiefly on transparency and color. Heretofore a large part of the better grades has been re-exported to consumers in the United States where copal is used in varnish making. The German manufacturers, however, bought the poorest qualities at very low prices and submitted them to a simple purifying process which produced a transparency almost equal to that of the finer grades.

A large amount of copal is consumed by industries in the United States, but the buyers have insisted upon having only the purest quality, and it has, therefore, been impossible to ship copal direct from Kongo to America, because it must first be sorted by dealers in

Europe. Efforts have been made to sort the product in Kongo before shipment, but have resulted in failure.

Suggestion that Copal Be Sorted in America.

If American buyers could make some arrangement for sorting copal upon its arrival in the United States, as has been done heretofore in Hull, they might now import large quantities of the unsorted product which have accumulated at the Kongo seaports. The matter of refining the poorer grades should be easy of solution and then the entire product would be of industrial use in the United States.

Shipments can now be made from Matadi, Kongo, direct to La Pallice (La Rochelle), France, where facilities exist for transshipment to New York.

American firms interested in acquiring supplies direct from Kongo should write to Mr. Pierre Lauwers, 132 Dunster House, Mincing Lane, London, E. C. 3, who is acting on behalf of the producers in Kongo. The Director of Economic Affairs at Boma, Kongo, would also be pleased to give full information to American firms interested in the matter.

KNITTING-MACHINE NEEDLES AT HONGKONG.

[Consul General George E. Anderson, Hongkong, British China, Sept. 20.]

The output of the South China knitting factories the current year has been greatly curtailed by a lack of knitting-machine needles. Previous to the war most of the machinery and accessories of this sort used here were imported from the United States, and in the ordinary course of business there was no difficulty in keeping the trade supplied with knitting needles. During the past two years, however, the number of needles available from the United States has declined until importers complain that they are now receiving not more than 10 per cent of their requirements. Some needles of inferior quality have been imported recently from Japan and a few are being manufactured locally and broken needles are being repaired whenever practicable. With all these makeshifts, however, the shortage is so serious that the trade has been much hampered, and in the case of some of the mills a complete shutdown has followed. The lack of needles is considered by some factory managers as of a more serious nature than the shortage in the supply of yarn occasioned by recent high prices.

Comparatively little in the way of knitting machinery is being imported. The difficulty of securing shipments and of securing freight space for the deliveries which can be made at the American end, as well as general uncertainty in many lines of commerce and industry in South China, has interfered with the trade—which at the present time is almost purely American. German machines, which before the war were the chief competitors of American manufactures, are of course entirely out of the market now. Imports of knitting machines into the South China field in 1916 amounted to only 5 per cent of the imports previous to the war; while imports of all such machinery (sewing, knitting, and embroidery) into all China fell from a value of \$963,898 gold in 1912 and \$668,606 in 1913 to \$363,603 gold in 1914, \$182,977 in 1915, and \$233,232 in 1916.

NEW CROP OF MADRAS INDIGO.

• [Consul Lucien Memminger, Madras, India, Sept. 25.]

A crop report of the Madras Department of Agriculture, just issued, states that the area under indigo in the Madras Presidency in the 1917-18 season is now estimated at 265,700 acres as compared with an estimate of 335,000 acres made at the corresponding date last year. The decrease is due partly to failure of rains at the sowing season in the Deccan, but mainly to the fall in the local price of indigo, dating from January, 1917. This fall did not affect the sowings in the southern districts, which take place normally in December-January.

An estimate of outturn at this stage is difficult, as much depends on the proportion of the crop that will be actually used for making dye. At least a third of last year's crop remains unexported owing to freight difficulties, so that the local demand for dye is poor, and in these circumstances some of the crop may be used for green manure. The report says that about 1,700 tons of dye can be manufactured from this year's crop, but that it is unlikely that more than 1,200 tons will be made.

Green and Dry Leaf Indigo.

In southern Madras both the green and the dry leaf processes of manufacturing indigo are followed; in the northern parts indigo is extracted only from the green leaf. Dry-leaf indigo is not exported; and, in general, the poorer qualities of Madras indigoes are used in the country and only the better ones sent abroad.

It is said that perhaps the best average qualities of indigo in southern India are produced in the districts adjacent to Madras. They are characterized by low specific gravity, bright color, and high indigotin content, and are generally comparatively free from adulteration. The season extends from August to January.

From the northern districts the qualities are somewhat variable, especially in Kurnool and Cuddapah, where some of the best grades are available, but where also a lot of inferior product is marketed. The cakes are graded according to size and quality, and deliveries later on in the season are generally superior to those marketed earlier. The season extends from July to February.

Qualities Produced in Other Districts.

The indigo from Nellore and Gudur is generally of good quality, coming in large cakes, rich in color, light to moderate in weight, and usually free from adulteration. The season extends from November to April.

Gunturs are rather more mixed in quality than Nellores. The season runs from July to February, and deliveries during the earlier months are inferior in quality to those which come upon the market later.

Lankas from the Godavari and Kistna districts come upon the market from June to November. They are put up in small cakes, rather hard, and of medium specific gravity and slightly coppery color.

In general it may be stated that the quality of the production is dependent to some extent upon the rains. When these are timely the average quality is high, but when the rains are late or insufficient the specific gravity of the cakes increases and the quality of the indigo is slightly inferior.

The export business is centered in Madras, the indigo being shipped in cases containing, for Egypt, 80 to 90 pounds net, for Japan 150 pounds, for Europe and America 250 to 300 pounds net.

ARGENTINA'S FOREIGN TRADE FOR FIRST HALF OF 1917.

[Consul General W. Henry Robertson, Buenos Aires, Oct. 15.]

Figures of the foreign trade of Argentina for the first six months of 1917, compiled by the Direccion General de Estadistica de la Nacion, have been published in the Review of the River Plata. According to these figures the exports from Argentina to foreign countries for the first half of 1917 amounted to \$305,272,013, as compared with \$246,057,367 for the corresponding period of 1916; and the imports were \$88,836,152 and \$104,966,451 for the same periods.

The following table shows the value of the exports to and the imports from the different countries for the first six months of 1917 and 1916, all amounts being given in Argentine gold pesos equivalent to \$0.964 American currency:

Countries.	Imports from.		Exports to.	
	Jan.-June, 1916.	Jan.-June, 1917.	Jan.-June, 1916.	Jan.-June, 1917.
	<i>Pesos.</i>	<i>Pesos.</i>	<i>Pesos.</i>	<i>Pesos.</i>
Austria-Hungary.....	8,765	4,783		
Belgium.....	138,176	30,535		
Bolivia.....	223,478	186,913	476,295	461,806
Brazil.....	5,300,471	7,020,292	9,739,493	12,392,445
British Empire:				
Canada.....	482,568	161,338	5,597	
South Africa.....	8,769	24,984	125,572	478,684
United Kingdom.....	31,225,377	21,768,541	73,981,827	98,060,758
Other possessions.....	1,613,996	963,993	302,358	1,695,105
Chile.....	502,794	541,128	675,780	1,449,151
China.....	149,813	111,763		
Cuba.....	482,777	516,037	21,329	877
Denmark.....	227,229	67,185	2,628,418	3,541,624
Ecuador.....	9,810	4,349		
France.....	7,881,456	5,750,717	27,063,110	36,193,107
French possessions.....	5,675	4,693	66,978	7,762,365
Germany.....	263,638	91,280		
Greece.....	5,667	2,733		
Italy.....	12,069,221	6,664,660	11,473,693	14,836,075
Japan.....	491,851	499,787		852,518
Mexico.....	3,123,835	1,618,706		
Netherlands.....	980,887	520,738	9,682,644	4,315,085
Norway.....	648,973	475,490	2,130,111	5,285,292
Paraguay.....	1,141,370	1,328,218	1,248,896	1,618,094
Portugal.....	128,472	135,806	1,290,557	
Spain.....	6,507,288	7,473,616	3,599,882	4,276,318
Sweden.....	842,716	599,171	4,981,270	2,667,856
Switzerland.....	964,748	702,665		797,130
Turkey.....	11,528	496		
United States.....	28,439,679	30,239,472	54,301,477	77,071,654
Uruguay.....	1,168,295	1,282,011	2,437,839	4,725,730
All other countries.....	22,223	44,782	2,285,057	1,873,185
To "Order".....			37,539,184	24,917,694
Total.....	104,966,451	88,836,152	246,057,367	305,272,013

BRITISH INSURANCE COMPANIES' AIR-RAID POLICIES.

[Consul Harry A. McBride, London, England, Nov. 5.]

The air raids over England have resulted in the issuance by British insurance companies of special accident policies covering air-raid risks. The usual accident policies specifically exclude risks of war, but during the latter half of the present year a demand has arisen for insurance covering personal injury resulting from air raids. The companies have begun to issue policies which, while varying in wording, are still quite comprehensive in their scope. The following is an example of the risks assumed:

Against bodily injury resulting in death or disablement caused within the United Kingdom directly and immediately by aircraft (hostile or otherwise), or by shots, shells, bombs, or missiles from or used against aircraft, or by falling glass, buildings, or building material immediately resulting from aircraft attacks or antiaircraft defense.

Increase in Rates.

As to the statement that the risks cover all contingencies immediately resulting from aircraft attacks, the view is held that the companies would not necessarily be obliged to make payment in cases where the injury was caused by parts of buildings falling several days after the raid had taken place.

Policies issued in June and July, 1917, were at the rate of £1 (\$4.87) for insurance to the value of £1,000 (\$4,866) in the event of death or the loss of two limbs or both eyes, £500 (\$2,433) for the loss of one limb or one eye, £6 (\$29.20) per week for total disablement, £1 10s. (\$7.30) per week for partial disablement, each of these weekly payments to extend, if necessary, up to fifty-two weeks. Later, however, several companies doubled the above rate of premium while others announced an increase of 50 per cent.

Many merchants, banking firms, etc., have taken advantage of these policies by insuring their staffs, and there has also been a considerable business done with private individuals.

Damage to Property.

In order to meet the obvious need which arose during the first year of the war, several companies began issuing policies covering damage to property caused by air raids, but in July, 1915, this sort of insurance was taken over by the Government, and now many companies act as agents for this kind of State insurance, or policies may be obtained direct from the Government insurance offices.

On March 1, 1917, the rates of premium were reduced by one-half, with a minimum premium of 2 shillings (\$0.489). The present rates per £100 (\$487) of insurance under the Government scheme are:

	<i>s. d.</i>	
Private houses and their contents and buildings in which no trade is carried on.....	1	0 (\$0.24)
All other buildings and their rents.....	1	6 (\$0.37)
Farming stock (live and dead).....	1	6 (\$0.37)
Contents of all buildings other than in private houses and in premises specified below.....	2	6 (\$0.61)
Merchandise at docks and public wharves, in carriers' and canal warehouses and yards, in public mercantile storage warehouses, and while in transit by rail; timber in the open; mineral oil tanks and stores (wholesale).....	3	9 (\$0.91)

All Government rates as above are for 12 calendar months, except as regards property included in the last paragraph. Policies

covering these risks are issued for six months at three-fourths of the annual premium, for three months at one-half the annual rate, and for one month at one-fourth of the annual premium.

Compensation Without Insurance.

A scheme was outlined to-day (Nov. 5, 1917) in the House of Commons for the payment of compensation by the Government for war damage without insurance. This scheme has been prepared to give owners of property not exceeding £500 (\$2,433) in value compensation for damage done by air raids and bombardment without payment of any premium. Owners of property exceeding £500 in value will, by this scheme, be compensated up to this amount without payment of premium provided property in excess of that amount is insured under the Government insurance scheme above outlined. The compensation paid by the Government under this arrangement will be limited to the actual damage done, having regard to the condition and value of the property at the time of the damage, and will be devoted to making good the destruction, subject to any conditions and exceptions which the Air-Raid Compensation Committee may prescribe.

In cases of uninsured property, immediate notice of damage must be given at the offices of this committee or to its duly appointed agents.

This scheme will take effect as from September 1, 1917.

Loss of Profits by Air Raids.

There has also arisen a certain demand for insurance against loss of profit caused by damage sustained during air raids. The Government insurance scheme covers only direct damage to property, but, of course, in destruction caused by air attacks there is not only the actual loss of property but also the possible loss to the owner thereof of means of livelihood while the property is rendered useless.

This sort of insurance has always been very cautiously dealt with by fire insurance companies because of the possibility of gain rather than loss to the insured person in the case of fire, but this risk can hardly occur in air-raid insurance, as it is scarcely conceivable that persons could arrange with the enemy for the destruction of a specific building for the purpose of obtaining the insurance money. So certain companies are now prepared to issue special policies.

The London Times states that three methods are in use for dealing with these loss-of-profit insurances. Under the first system the sum insured is supposed to represent the annual profits and the fixed charges, such as rent, debenture interest, salaries of skilled employees, etc., and the amount recoverable bears the same proportion to the sum insured as the amount paid for material damage bears to the sum insured under the ordinary aircraft policy. Under the second scheme the amount insured is arrived at in the same way, and the sum recoverable is one-twelfth for each month during which the business is stopped through air-raid damage. The principle of these schemes is simply the payment of a definite sum for a definite period.

The Most Successful Method.

These methods are not entirely satisfactory, because a claim for no greater loss than broken windows would receive the same proportionate payment for damages as, for instance, the complete destruc-

tion of a factory, whereas in the latter case there would be an entire loss of profit until the building could be replaced. The Times gives the following as the most successful method:

In this system the loss is assessed according to the reduction in the output or turnover which is attributable to the air raid. It is based on the assumption that the profits of the business represent a certain proportion of the value of the output, and that the fixed charges form a definite proportion of the cost of the output. Hence it is argued that any reduction of output through an air raid involves loss of profits and fixed charges in the same proportion as the whole profits and total of the fixed charges bear to the total output.

It is usual in this system to include indemnity for any increase in the cost of working due to an air raid. Thus the cost of any measures which can be taken to maintain output, as, for example, the renting of temporary premises, can be recovered under the policy.

Effect of Prohibition of Building on Insurance.

The position has been rendered more difficult, both for owners of property and for insurance companies, by the restriction placed on building operations by the Government, since in the event of destruction or serious damage loss of profits may be expected to continue for very much longer than in normal times. Underwriters, therefore, have been quoting two rates of premium, the one covering the risk of loss of profits during the period between the time when the damage was done and the estimated normal date of replacement, and the other covering the actual period during which the loss of profits is suffered. For buildings in the London area 5 shillings (\$1.22) per cent has been quoted under the first scheme and 7 shillings and sixpence (\$1.83) per cent under the second scheme, while the rates for property in the Midlands and West of England have been about 4 shillings (\$0.97) and 6 shillings (\$1.46) per cent, respectively.

AMERICAN WARES IN BRITISH EAST AFRICA.

The trade-extension work of the American Consular Service in British East Africa is bearing fruit in a gratifying manner. Consul Henry P. Starrett reports that as the result of trade opportunities submitted by the Mombasa consulate, local firms recently sent trial orders to the United States aggregating \$5,200, and the loan of catalogues from the consulate files turned another \$6,400 worth of business over to American manufacturers.

Lanterns are one of the articles concerning which information is most frequently sought (two trial orders for \$1,500 each were placed), but soaps, watches, pencils and paper, and hosiery also figure prominently among the merchandise ordered.

OFFICES OF THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE.

DISTRICT OFFICES.

NEW YORK: 784 Customhouse.
BOSTON: 1801 Customhouse.
CHICAGO: 504 Federal Building.
ST. LOUIS: 402 Third National Bank Building.
NEW ORLEANS: 1020 Hilbernia Bank Building.
SAN FRANCISCO: 807 Customhouse.
SEATTLE: 845 Henry Building.

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CLEVELAND: Chamber of Commerce.
CINCINNATI: Chamber of Commerce.
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LOS ANGELES: Chamber of Commerce.
PHILADELPHIA: Chamber of Commerce.
CHATTANOOGA: South American Agent, Southern Railway System.
PORTLAND, OREG.: Chamber of Commerce.
DAYTON: Greater Dayton Association.

SOUTH WALES AS A MARKET FOR MACHINERY.

[Consul M. K. Moorhead, Swansea, Sept. 20.]

The demand in South Wales for construction machinery is confined to the industrial section, which consists of the County of Glamorgan (excluding the purely agricultural peninsula of Gower and the Vale of Glamorgan, situated between the mountains and the sea); the western portion of Monmouth County; the eastern fringe of Brecknockshire, and eastern Carmarthenshire; or roughly speaking, the area from Newport and Pontypool in the Cardiff consular district to Kidwelly in the Swansea consular district. This area conforms practically to the south Wales coal field and its dependent seaport towns.

According to the census of 1911, 60.9 per cent of the male population of Glamorgan County, 10 years old and upward, was engaged in industrial pursuits, and 10.9 per cent in transport; in Monmouth County 61.3 per cent in industry, and 9.1 per cent in transport; Carmarthen County showed 50.7 per cent in industry, and 6 per cent in transport; and Brecknock County 46.5 per cent in industry, and 5.4 per cent in transport.

Section Has Had Minimum of Changes Due to War.

Notwithstanding considerable shifting of the population and extensive changes in occupation due to war conditions, these 1911 returns give the fairest estimate of present-day conditions. Probably fewer changes in occupation have occurred in South Wales than in any other section of the United Kingdom, as the principal industries are of national importance in the prosecution of the war, and except to a limited extent it is impossible to substitute female for male workers. This is especially true in coal mining.

Coal production is by far the most important industry of South Wales, employing directly a larger proportion of the population than any other. Of the 411,233 males engaged in 1911 in industrial occupations in South Wales, 214,891 were in the coal mines. Coal mining has indirectly affected many industries, especially iron and steel, and other metal productions, in which plants have been located here on account of the fuel supplies; and the transport industry, a large network of railways having been built throughout the coal fields to connect them with the seaboard. Coal mining is the basis of the extensive shipping of the ports of South Wales.

Shipments of Coal, Coke, and Briquets.

During the year ended December 31, 1916, the coal, coke, and briquets shipped foreign and coastwise, as cargo and bunker, from the principal four ports of South Wales (Cardiff, Newport, Swansea, and Port Talbot) amounted to 23,396,643 tons (ton 2,240 pounds), compared with 40,701,670 tons in the prewar year 1913. Of these totals 17,263,651 tons in 1916 and 29,469,733 tons in 1913, represented cargo coal which was shipped abroad. Aside from coal and tin plates, the exports of South Wales are of little importance. The great dependence upon coal mining of the large shipping enterprises of South Wales is evident. Shipping in turn has created another industry of considerable importance—repairing of vessels. During 1916 there were 2,071 vessels of a gross tonnage of 5,194,430 dry-

docked in the principal ports here. Cardiff has 11 dry docks, 5 are at Newport, 8 at Swansea, 2 at Barry, and 1 at Port Talbot.

The four ports are well equipped with docks and machinery for loading and unloading cargo. The docks in Swansea are the King's Dock (13,550 linear feet of quays), the Prince of Wales Dock (6,600 feet), the North Dock (5,500 feet), and the South Dock (6,550 feet), each equipped with modern appliances for the rapid loading and unloading of vessels. The warehouses in connection with the docks have a floor area of 441,942 square feet. The docks are owned and operated by the Swansea Harbor Trust. The railways of the trust connect the harbor with the Great Western, London & North Western, Midland, and Rhondda & Swansea Bay Railways.

Dry-Dock Equipment—Port Talbot.

The dry docks of the port, with their length, breadth, and ownership are: Albion, 480 by 42½ feet, Victoria Dry Docks Co. (Swansea), Ltd.; Cambrian No. 1, 263 by 41½ feet, No. 2, 156 by 34 feet, Harris Bros.; Central, 375 by 60 feet, Ocean Dry Dock Co. (Ltd.); Phoenix, 310 by 39 feet, executors of Mr. Meager; Jersey, 267 by 46 feet, Jersey Dry Dock Co.; Villiers, 280 by 40 feet, G. B. Meager & Co.; Prince of Wales, 450 by 120 feet, Prince of Wales Dry Dock (Swansea), Ltd.

Port Talbot has been described in a previous report. It is situated on the eastern shore of Swansea Bay, 13 miles by railway and 6 miles by sea from Swansea. It is the third port of South Wales, being exceeded in the amount of sea-borne trade only by Cardiff and Swansea. Although Port Talbot, with a population of 10,500, is of little importance as a town, its favorable location on the edge of the South Wales coal field has created a large export trade. It is the natural port of shipment for the western section of the steam and bituminous section of the coal fields, Swansea being the port for the anthracite fields. An annual output of 10,000,000 tons of coal is within easy reach, and on about one-half of this amount railway rates to Port Talbot range from 6 to 18 cents per ton less than to other ports. In 1915 the total sea-borne trade of Port Talbot was valued at \$1,370 per head of the population, compared with \$545 for Swansea and \$520 for Cardiff.

Port Talbot's docking facilities include the Old Dock and the New Dock. The Old Dock is 55 acres in extent, about half of which is dredged to a depth of 27 feet 6 inches. The New Dock covers 35 acres and has a uniform depth of 27 feet 6 inches. Plans have been prepared for the construction, after the war, of a third dock, 875 feet long by 90 feet wide at the entrance, with a draft of 33 feet of water over the inner sill, and for an extension of the breakwater by 1,000 feet, for the purpose of insuring an increased depth of water in the entrance channel.

The docks of Port Talbot are owned by the Port Talbot Railway & Docks Co. They are surrounded by about 30 miles of railway sidings. Approximately 50,000 tons of coal can be stored on the docks ready for shipment.

Extent of Transportation Service.

According to the census of 1911 the number of males engaged in the various branches of the transport services in Glamorgan County

was 48,376; in Monmouthshire, 14,426; and in Carmarthenshire, 3,747. The Swansea district is served by seven railways—the Great Western, London & North Western, Rhondda & Swansea Bay, Midland, the Port Talbot Railway & Docks Co., Vale of Neath Railway, and Burry Port & Gwendreath Valley Railway. The portion of Glamorgan County lying east of Swansea, the greater part of which is in the Cardiff consular district, is intersected by a number of railways serving the coal fields, among which may be mentioned the Taff Vale Railway, the Cambrian Railways, the Rhymney Railway, the Vale of Glamorgan Railway, the Severn & Wye Railway, and Cardiff Railway.

The iron industry in South Wales preceded the coal mining. It was encouraged by the presence of iron ore and plentiful supplies of wood for making charcoal. There were also adequate quantities of limestone and furnace sandstone. The first ironworks were established in North Glamorgan and Monmouthshire about the middle of the eighteenth century. With the utilization of coal for smelting purposes the iron industry quickly developed. The tin-plate industry was first established to provide a market for the locally produced iron. Later steel was substituted for iron in the manufacture of tin plates. The iron created the tin-plate industry, and in turn tin plate created the steel industry.

Discovery of Richer English Iron Ores.

Iron interests in South Wales declined with the discovery of richer iron ores in England, and these Welsh mines were gradually abandoned. Several of the inland ironworks of Wales were moved to the seaboard towns. In recent years the pig-iron industry of South Wales has declined. In July, 1917, there were only 12 pig-iron furnaces in blast in this region (including Monmouthshire). All of these furnaces are located inland at Ebbw Vale, Blaenavon, Cwmhan, and Merthyr, with the exception of the Dowlais Works at Cardiff and Baldwins Works at Landore (Swansea) and Briton Ferry.

Bessemer steel is manufactured chiefly at Newport in Monmouthshire. Siemens steel, which is used chiefly for tin plates, is made almost solely in Swansea and the immediate district. Swansea is therefore the center of the tin-plate trade and the Siemens steel production. It is stated that 75 per cent of the tin plates manufactured in the United Kingdom are produced within 12 miles of Swansea. Next to coal mining it is the most important industry of the Swansea district. Closely allied to tin-plate manufacture is that of black plates and galvanized sheets.

A large tube works also, employing 1,776 men (British Mannesmann Tube Works), is located at Landore, near Swansea.

The number of persons engaged in the iron and steel and other metal industries of South Wales in 1911 was 41,799, of whom 21,396 were in tin-plate works; 14,351 in iron and steel mills; 1,507 in galvanized sheet factories; 2,841 in the manufacture of copper goods; and 974 in zinc-smelting works.

Early Prominence Given to Copper Smelting.

Copper smelting was the first great manufacturing industry here. It opened up the coal production of the district for the smelting of the ores and established a large shipping trade. The copper ores

first smelted in the district came from Cornwall and Devonshire. Later ores were brought from Chile. The Swansea copper-ore trade reached its zenith between 1860 and 1870. After 1870 it began to decline, and the tin-plate industry then sprang up and became far more important. Nevertheless, copper is still of great importance, and Swansea produces a large proportion of all the copper manufactures of the United Kingdom. The principal products are locomotive fire boxes, sheets, and circles, or copper bottoms. There were 2,841 persons engaged in the industry in 1911. Eight establishments are in the field, two of which are owned by the same firm. Two firms have chemical works attached to their plants.

Practically all of the spelter manufactured in the United Kingdom comes from the Swansea district. About 1,000 men are engaged in the industry, the total production of which is 60,000 long tons per annum. Efforts are now being made to increase the amount. The Mond Nickel Works at Clydach, near Swansea, is an important industry, employing 1,270 persons. This district has several chemical factories, producing chiefly sulphuric acid, nitric acid and its salts, sulphate of copper, sulphate of iron, and nickel salts. Engineering is purely a subsidiary industry.

[A list of coal mines, steel and tin-plate mills, metallurgical plants, dry docks, sawmills, and other producers in the Swansea district; the chief harbor boards, railways, and officials in charge of road building; and dealers in machinery may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 93510.]

RECENT FEATURES OF BIRMINGHAM'S IRON INDUSTRY.

[Consul E. Haldeman Dennison, Birmingham, England, Oct. 24.]

The stringency in the pig iron trade increases in proportion to the greater output of basic iron to meet the heavy requirements of steel works. Iron founders are especially inconvenienced by the shortage of supplies. The demand continues strong, and sellers are refusing new business, except on terms covering any subsequent advance that may be officially sanctioned. In the finished-iron trade there is a heavy demand for best bar iron.

The great demand that exists for all forms of war material continues unabated. Five additional blast furnaces were started last month in England, so that there are now 232 furnaces in blast, compared with 217 a year ago.

No exact comparison can be drawn between the Board of Trade returns of the overseas trade of the United Kingdom for the first nine months of 1917, and those for the corresponding months in 1916, because since July of this year the accounts have included Government as well as private imports, except imports for the use of the British forces on active service. The figures for the earlier months of the present year include, as regards imports, all articles of food, but not other goods which at the time of importation were the property of the allied Governments. The figures relating to goods exported in these earlier months include goods bought in the United Kingdom by or for the Governments of the allies, but not goods taken from the British stores or goods bought by the British Government and shipped in its own vessels. The difficulty in dealing with the latest statistics on the usual comparative basis will therefore be apparent.

Metal-Trades Imports for Nine Months.

Imports of iron, steel, machinery, hardware, etc., into the United Kingdom for the first nine months of 1917, compared with the amounts for the corresponding period in the preceding year, were:

Imports for nine months.	1916		1917	
	Tons.	Value.	Tons.	Value.
Iron ore, scrap, etc.....		\$97,890,971		\$97,834,534
Pig iron.....	118,964	5,019,327	93,765	5,876,411
Iron and steel (excluding ore and scrap).....	610,803	41,646,129	359,841	38,907,020
Rails.....	3,956	149,409	219	22,123
Copper:				
Regulus and precipitate.....	31,754	9,150,874	13,924	9,200,639
Unwrought and wrought.....	86,063	48,744,732	97,893	63,330,417
Lead, pig and sheet.....	118,975	17,923,355	105,800	15,375,268
Zinc:				
Crude.....	36,516	13,483,811	46,147	12,676,126
Manufactured.....	2,836	1,411,868	3,005	1,080,433
Tin in blocks.....	26,596	28,734,840	20,548	21,535,913
Machinery, prime movers, except electrical.....	5,641	1,809,580	11,988	4,668,249
Machinery, electrical.....	6,858	4,445,572	6,340	5,096,686
Machinery, not prime movers or electrical.....	44,775	24,364,696	34,046	20,546,783
Cutlery.....	208	723,833	62	350,957
Hardware.....	4,936	1,702,780	1,866	770,668

The effect of the restrictions on imports of hardware is strikingly shown in these figures. Noticeable declines are also seen under iron and steel, rails, lead, tin, zinc, machinery not prime movers or electrical, and cutlery.

Official figures also show that exports have decreased both in volume and value under most headings, machinery being the sole exception. The decline may be attributed to the lack of raw materials, the supplies of which have been severely curtailed for some months past, so far as general trade is concerned. All these industries, however, whose ordinary activities have been seriously circumscribed, are fully employed, and their energies for the most part have been diverted to work connected with the war in one form or another. There is no diminution in the output of iron and steel, the import difficulties having been countered by the larger working of native ores. All the principal machine-tool factories are working overtime, and have orders on hand which it will take them months to complete. There is a strict allocation of all classes of machine tools, and makers and merchants are bound not to sell except on production of an express authority.

Figures Show Changes in Exports.

The exports for the first nine months of 1917, compared with the amounts for the corresponding period of 1916, were:

Exports for nine months.	1916		1917	
	Tons.	Value.	Tons.	Value.
Iron and steel (excluding ore and including scrap).....	2,733,548	\$239,715,040	1,897,634	\$174,427,020
Machinery, prime movers (excluding etc. trical).....	49,089	15,813,091	40,528	14,689,073
Machinery, not prime movers, or electrical.....	179,524	51,105,573	159,842	54,337,810
Machinery, electrical.....	13,142	5,427,185	10,660	5,394,788
Cutlery.....	1,278	2,340,450	1,059	2,112,081
Hardware.....	17,917	5,986,810	11,302	4,429,979
Implements.....				7,287,316
Railway wagons.....		2,556,002		1,694,068
Cycles and parts.....		6,736,167		4,451,523
Motor cars and parts.....		12,240,828		10,172,403
Motor cycles and parts.....		3,247,527		3,389,562

MOTOR ROAD AROUND HONGKONG ISLAND.

[Consul General George E. Anderson, Hongkong, British China, Oct. 15.]

Despite war conditions a motor road around the principal portions of the island of Hongkong is in course of construction and the budget of the colony for next year makes provision for its completion.

Until about five years ago the chief roads of the colony were constructed to meet traffic conditions represented by sedan chairs and jinrikishas. The single notable exception was a roadway of more pretentious nature which was constructed around the northwest end of the island from the city of Victoria to the town of Aberdeen on the west coast by a popular subscription as a monument to Queen Victoria at the time of her great jubilee, and it is known as Jubilee Road.

About five years ago, under pressure of the increasing demand for motor cars in the colony, this road was somewhat lengthened, and in the course of the past three years it has been extended to Deep Water Bay, a point on the west coast well toward the southern end of the island. During the past year this road has been extended to a point known as Repulse Bay, farther south along the coast. Next year the road is to be continued under a recognized policy of road construction, which is stated to be the outstanding feature of the budget estimates.

Route of New Road—Of More Than Local Importance.

From Repulse Bay to a point on the road between Stanley and Tytam Tuk it is proposed to make a new road with easy gradients and with a summit considerably lower than that of the present path. The alignment is not yet settled, but the sum of \$80,000 has been budgeted in anticipation of the work being finished next year. The remainder of the road to Tytam Tuk will be improved and widened at an estimated cost of \$66,000. The approach road to the reservoir and the road over the dam will be completed this year, and funds have been allotted for completing the road from the dam to Tytam Gap. From Tytam Gap it has been suggested ultimately to proceed to Shaukiwan on the east side of the island through a deep cutting and over an entirely new road at a much lower level than the existing road; but, in order to avoid the great expense of this work at present, provision has been made for a small loop road at Tytam Gap joining the new road to the existing road and for improving the existing road to Shaukiwan.

The completion of this road will be of more than local importance since it will be an important attraction for the many thousands of tourists passing through Hongkong annually. The government is spending substantially a quarter of a million dollars during the coming year on the improvement of existing roads, so as to make them suitable for motor traffic, including a motor road from Kowloon to Castle Peak, on the Pearl River, thence across to Fanling, near the sea, and back to Kowloon—in all, about 60 miles of fine, broad road. This is to be completed next year. The government plans by this means not only to afford increasing means of recreation and pleasure

for residents, but also to open up many parts of the colony as residential sites and to develop them as revenue-producing and remunerative works.

POSSIBILITY OF PAPER MAKING FROM A BRAZILIAN FIBER.

[Consul Carl F. Delchman, Santos, Oct. 22.]

The Bulletin of the Commercial Association of Santos, in an article on the native fibers of Brazil, states that the association, for the purpose of investigating the possible use of the native fibers of the country in the manufacture of bagging material for sacks for coffee and grain exports, sent a letter to the Associação Commercial of Belem, Para, Brazil. The reply showed the existence of a fiber which may be utilized for paper making. The Santos association wrote:

As this association is much interested in obtaining a fiber that would compare favorably with jute—the best material for coffee sacks—in texture and quality, with the object of substituting it for jute in the making of bagging material, and has been informed that on the Island of Marajo, in your State, there is a plant of the caue species which has strong white silky fibers, perhaps suitable for making a light and strong material capable of taking the place of that made from the India fiber, we would respectfully request that you favor us with information concerning it and send us, if possible, samples of this fiber, with such details about production, climatic conditions, appropriate soils, and the probable cost of the cloth (if it is made) per meter, as well as any other statistics or information which will enlighten us on the subject.

Reply to Para Association.

In reply the Para association stated that it had made inquiry of persons familiar with the subject not only in the capital, but also in the interior of the State. The investigation showed that, notwithstanding the large number of textile fibers to be found there, none of them were adapted to an economical application to the desired use. "A textile mill in regular operation here," it stated, "has experimented with various indigenous fibers, but without results, this failure being due to the difficulty of spinning, because the spindles for jute or flax are not adapted to the preparation of our fibers, some very tough, others very silky." The letter continued:

Regarding the special plant to which you refer on the Island of Marajo, we obtained nothing definite, which leads us to believe that there was a mistake in the information given to your association. In this island and in general in all the region of the lower Amazon, along its branches, a plant called "aninga" abounds and is very well adapted to the manufacture of paper, but it is absolutely useless for spinning and weaving.

Information Considered Valuable.

A Tribuna, which publishes the letters exchanged between the associations, calls attention to the fact here brought out that there is in Para among the various fibrous plants one which is well adapted to the making of paper, and that there is a superabundance of this plant in the fertile regions of the north. "It would be well for our industrialists," it says, "to take note of this valuable information, as well as of that which the association is still expecting from the other States regarding the existence in each one of them of fibers that may be industrially utilized."

[An article on paper-pulp possibilities in Brazil was published in **COMMERCE REPORTS** for Feb. 7, 1917.]

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the Bureau and its district and cooperative offices. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and state opportunity number. The Bureau does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases. Symbols: * Reported by American consular officers; † Reported by commercial attachés and commercial agents; ‡ Direct inquiries received by the Bureau.

In considering the following "opportunities" special regard should be had to the laws and regulations governing export licenses and trading with the enemy.

Drugs.....	25958	Perfumes.....	25958
Gas, SO ₂	25952	Sanitary and lavatory equipment.....	25951
Linoleum.....	25953	Snap fasteners.....	25955
Machinery.....	25954	Tubes.....	25951
Motor-car parts and accessories.....	25956	Water heaters.....	25951
Oils, lubricating.....	25957	Waterproof and oilcloth.....	25953

25951.*—A company in Italy desires to purchase sanitary and lavatory equipment of all kinds for closets, basins, washstands, etc., made of pottery, clay, and porcelain; cast-iron tubes for gutters and closets; iron tubes; joints, junctions, curves, elbows, etc., made of cast iron, black or zinc; and bath water heaters made of copper. Illustrated catalogues and full description of above-mentioned goods may be examined at the Bureau or its district offices. (Refer to file No. 91968.) Quotations may be made f. o. b. New York. Payment will be made by opening credit at local bank when giving order, available against shipping documents. Correspondence may be in English, but French or Italian preferred. References.

25952.†—A firm in Japan desires to be placed in communication with American manufacturers and exporters of SO₂ gas for ice machines. Catalogues and full information in regard to export prices, commission, packing, weights, etc., should be submitted. All business will be financed through a New York banking corporation. Reference.

25953.*—An agency on a commission basis is desired by a man in England for the sale of oilcloth, waterproof cloth, and linoleum. A sample of the waterproof cloth desired may be examined at the Bureau or its district offices. (Refer to file No. 92468.) Quotations should be made f. o. b. References.

25954.†—A company in Japan is in the market for a complete plant for manufacturing by mechanical process about 2 tons of glue and gelatine per day of 24 working hours. Quotations and full information in regard to freights, packing, weights, also detailed drawings and specifications, should be submitted. Business will be financed through a New York banking corporation. Reference.

25955.*—A wholesale and retail buyer in Italy is in the market for large quantities of black and white snap fasteners of different sizes. Samples of fasteners similar to the kind desired may be examined at the bureau or its district offices. (Refer to file No. 92213.) Payment will be made by opening credit at a local bank when giving order, available against shipping documents. Correspondence should be in French or Italian. References.

25956.†—A company in the Federated Malay States wishes to be placed in communication with American manufacturers and exporters of motor-car parts and accessories for different makes of American machines. Price lists, illustrated catalogues, etc., should be submitted. It would also like to receive free samples, if possible.

25957.*—An agency is desired by a firm in Norway for the sale of lubricating oils. Quotations should be made f. o. b. New York. Payment will be made by cash against documents. Correspondence may be in English. References.

25958.*—A company in Portugal desires to purchase drugs and perfumes. Quotations should be made f. o. b. American port. Payment will be made by cash, is desired, or by credit terms. Goods should be carefully packed. Correspondence may be in English. References.

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CERTAIN IMPORTS PROHIBITED EXCEPT UNDER LICENSE.

PROCLAMATION BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

Whereas Congress has enacted, and the President has on the 6th day of October, 1917, approved, a law which contains the following provisions:

Whenever during the present war the President shall find that the public safety so requires and shall make proclamation thereof it shall be unlawful to import into the United States from any country named in such proclamation any article or articles mentioned in such proclamation except at such time or times, and under such regulations or orders, and subject to such limitations and exceptions as the President shall prescribe, until otherwise ordered by the President or by Congress: *Provided, however,* That no preference shall be given to the ports of one State over those of another.

Now, therefore, I, Woodrow Wilson, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim to all whom it may concern that the public safety requires that the following articles, namely: Antimony, antimony ore, or any chemical extracted therefrom; asbestos; beans of all kinds; balata; burlap; castor seed, castor oil; cotton; chrome, chrome ore, or any ferro-alloy or chemical extracted therefrom; coconut oil; cobalt, cobalt ore, or any ferro-alloy or chemical extracted therefrom; copra; industrial diamonds; all ferro-alloys; flax; gutta joolatong; gutta percha; gutta siak; hemp; hides and skins; jute; iridium; leather; manganese, manganese ore, or any ferro-alloy or chemical extracted therefrom; mica, molybdenum, molybdenum ore, or any ferro-alloy or chemical extracted therefrom; naxos emery and naxos emery ore; nickel, nickel ore, matte, or any ferro-alloy or chemical extracted therefrom; sodium, potassium, or calcium nitrates; optical glass; palm oil; platinum; plumbago; pyrites; rice; rubber, raw, reclaimed, waste or scrap; scheelite; shellac; sisal; soya bean oil; spiegeleisen; sugars; tanning materials; tin in bars, blocks, pigs, or grain or granulated; tin ore and tin concentrates, or any chemical extracted therefrom; titanium, titanium ore, or any ferro-alloy or chemical extracted therefrom; tobacco; tungsten, tungsten ore, or any

ferro-alloy or chemical extracted therefrom; vanadium, vanadium ore, or any ferro-alloy or chemical extracted therefrom; wheat and wheat flour; wolframite; or wool, shall not, from and after the date of this proclamation, be imported into the United States or its territorial possessions from Abyssinia, Afghanistan, Albania, Argentina, Austria-Hungary, Belgium, her colonies, possessions, and protectorates, Bolivia, Brazil, Bulgaria, China, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Denmark, her colonies, possessions, and protectorates, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, France, her colonies, possessions, and protectorates, Germany, her colonies, possessions and protectorates, Great Britain, her colonies, possessions, and protectorates, Greece, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Italy, her colonies, possessions, and protectorates, Japan, Liechtenstein, Liberia, Luxembourg, Mexico, Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, Nepal, The Netherlands, her colonies, possessions, and protectorates, Nicaragua, Norway, Oman, Panama, Paraguay, Persia, Peru, Portugal, her colonies, possessions, and protectorates, Roumania, Russia, Salvador, San Marino, Serbia, Siam, Spain, her colonies, possessions, and protectorates, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Uruguay, or Venezuela, except under license granted by the War Trade Board in accordance with regulations or orders and subject to such limitations and exceptions as have heretofore been made or shall hereafter be prescribed in pursuance of the powers conferred by said act of October 6, 1917, and the Executive order of October 12, 1917.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the United States of America to be affixed.

Done in the District of Columbia, this 28th day of November in the year of our Lord 1917 and of the Independence of the United States of America the 142d.

WOODROW WILSON.

By the President:

ROBERT LANSING,

Secretary of State.

WAR TRADE BOARD ANNOUNCES FACTORS OF IMPORT CONTROL.

In connection with the President's proclamation of November 28, 1917 [given above], the War Trade Board has issued the following statement:

For some months exports from the United States have been controlled by the War Trade Board, successor to the Exports Administrative Board, the agency originally empowered to control by a system of licensing exports from the United States. The War Trade Board is now vested with similar control of the principal items of importation into the United States.

Title 7 of the "Espionage Act" gave to the President the power, when the public safety so required, to control exports from the United States. Under the power so conferred, the President, by proclamations of July 9, 1917, and August 27, 1917, established control over exports, and this is successfully accomplishing two important results. First, it is conserving for our own and the use of those countries associated with us in the war such of the bountiful resources of the United States as need to be conserved, and, second, it

prevents supplies from leaving our shores for the aid and comfort of the enemy.

Section 11 of the "Trading with the Enemy Act" conferred upon the President a like power to control imports into the United States. Such control of imports was made effective by the allied governments many months ago, the necessity therefor having become obvious if the resources of each were to be most effectively utilized for national and international demands. With the organization of the Bureau of Imports of the War Trade Board the requisite machinery has been supplied for increasing the importation of certain indispensable commodities produced abroad. The supply now coming forward to this country is limited by reason of export embargoes imposed by foreign powers controlling the territory in which such materials originate. Such action was made necessary because of interference with normal production, as well as the extraordinary consumption occasioned by the war. Among notable examples of such materials may be mentioned tin, wool, rubber, ferromanganese, leather, flax, and jute.

Will Make Possible More Effective Scheme of Reciprocity.

Prior to the enactment of this statute there was no governmental agency especially designated to deal with the proper officials of other governments in order to procure the release of commodities required by the United States and which had been embargoed by other governments. The governmental supervision of imports makes possible a more effective scheme of reciprocity, and brings about a closer unity of the countries associated together in the war. Heretofore, in the absence of a responsible agency with which to deal, the allied governments were not in a position to know that all products exported by them to the United States would be utilized in a manner most conducive to the success of the great common enterprise. With the extension of scope in the operations of the War Trade Board, there is at hand a dependable medium through which the allies will be enabled more effectively to express their willingness to reciprocate by making liberal shipments of commodities much needed by this country in exchange for the vast quantities of vital supplies which are going forward to them in an unending stream.

The various trades dealing in the embargoed commodities have been or are being so organized that the total requirements of each industry can be accurately surveyed, the nonessential uses of any material eliminated, and a system of control provided which will insure the equitable distribution of the imported commodity and its consumption in the most essential products. At present all of these materials are permitted by foreign governments to come into this country only under guaranties that they will not be reexported except under specified restrictions; that they will not be used in trading directly or indirectly with the enemy; and that no purchase of any such material has been made as a speculation. At present these guaranties are given to the consul or other representative of the allied governments in this country, but this method of handling imports has resulted in some dissatisfaction on the part of American business men affected thereby.

Under the authority conferred upon the President by the "Trading with the Enemy Act," the issuance of a proclamation requiring a

license for the importation of these various articles puts into effect a plan whereby the giving of guaranties by individual parties to a foreign government is obviated, and American individuals or firms will henceforth deal directly with their own Government in connection with their importations.

By virtue of this cooperation, supervision, and control on the part of the United States Government it is believed there will be forthcoming larger quantities of these various commodities so essential for our successful participation in the war, as the allied powers are anxious to work in harmony with us to secure the most advantageous distribution of the world's supply of indispensable materials, desiring only the assurance of this Government that the distribution thereof will be equitable, thereby insuring the maximum of united effectiveness against the common enemy.

The placing under control of the food products and raw materials listed in the President's proclamation in regard to imports will enable a proper distribution of these commodities, and where necessary insure an equitable price and thus serve to protect the consumer.

The United States Food Administration are laying down certain regulations governing these commodities, and the War Trade Board will cooperate with the Food Administration in granting import licenses freely to importers who conform to such regulations.

The War Trade Board, conscious of the responsibility they assume in assisting to accelerate and facilitate the Nation's business, are approaching this tremendous task in a spirit of the broadest cooperation and accommodation, the desire being to obviate obstructions and vexatious delays to the fullest possible extent. There is little doubt that all lines of business affected will cheerfully recognize the advantages of this centralized supervision, understanding that without it the economic situation and the effective conduct of the war would be seriously prejudiced; and will cooperate with the War Trade Board to attain the most equitable, and, from a national point of view, the most advantageous distribution and utilization of all imported commodities.

Import License Procedure.

The following statement with regard to procedure was issued by the Bureau of Imports of the War Trade Board:

"Import licenses are to be procured only upon application to the Bureau of Imports of the War Trade Board. Blank forms upon which such applications may be made will be supplied upon request by this Bureau. Applications are to be made out in duplicate and returned to the Bureau of Imports, War Trade Board, Bond Building, Washington, D. C."

Commercial School in Santiago de los Caballeros.

Consul Arthur McLean reports from Puerto Plata, Dominican Republic, that a school of commerce has recently been opened in Santiago de los Caballeros by the Association of Commercial Employees. The school is open to men and women, and its classes are held both in the day and evening. The new school includes courses in arithmetic, commercial practice, bookkeeping, grammar, and commercial correspondence.

FURTHER EXPORT RESTRICTIONS.**PROCLAMATION BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.**

Whereas Congress has enacted, and the President has on the 15th day of June, 1917, approved a law which contains the following provisions:

Whenever during the present war the President shall find that the public safety shall so require, and shall make proclamation thereof, it shall be unlawful to export from or ship from or take of the United States to any country named in such proclamation any article or articles mentioned in such proclamation, except at such time or times, and under such regulations and orders, and subject to such limitations and exceptions as the President shall prescribe, until otherwise ordered by the President or by Congress: *Provided, however,* That no preference shall be given to the ports of one State over those of another.

Now, therefore, I, Woodrow Wilson, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim to all whom it may concern, that, the public safety requires that the following articles (in addition to the articles controlled by the second division of the Proclamation of August 27, 1917), namely: Iron and steel wire rope, cable and strands consisting of six or more wires; stud-link chain cable; micrometers and calipers; lathe chucks; antimony, antimony ore, asbestos, balata, mica, mica splittings, strontium ores, titanium, wolframite and iridium; arsenic and its compounds, opium, caustic soda, soda ash, methyl-ethyl ketone and wood alcohol; acetic acid, glacial acetic acid, acetate of cellulose and all acetates; animal oils and vegetable oils; beans, eggs, peanut meal, flaxseed, soya bean meal, soya bean oil, starch, canned peas, canned tomatoes, canned corn, dried prunes, dried apricots, dried apples, dried raisins and dried peaches; quebracho and chestnut extracts; vegetable fiber bags and bagging, except cotton bags and bagging; rubber, sponges, gutta-joolatong, gutta-percha, gutta-siak, shellac, seedlac and cinchona bark; hospital gauze and surgical instruments; yellow pine wood measuring 1' by 1' by 25' and larger sizes; and poster paper; shall not on and after the first day of December in the year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Seventeen, be exported from or shipped from or taken out of the United States or its territorial possessions to Abyssinia, Afghanistan, Argentina, Belgium, her colonies, possessions or protectorates, Bolivia, Brazil, China, Chile, Columbia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, France, her colonies, possessions or protectorates, Great Britain, her colonies, possessions or protectorates, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Italy, her colonies, possessions or protectorates, Japan, Liberia, Mexico, Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, Nepal, Nicaragua, the colonies, possessions or protectorates of The Netherlands, Oman, Panama, Paraguay, Persia, Peru, Portugal, her colonies, possessions or protectorates, Roumania, Russia, Salvador, San Marino, Serbia, Siam, Uruguay, or Venezuela, or to any territory occupied by the military forces of the United States or the nations associated with the United States in the war, except at such time or times, and under such regulations and orders, and subject to such limitations and exceptions as the President shall prescribe, until otherwise ordered by the President or by Congress.

The regulations, orders, limitations, and exceptions prescribed will be administered by and under the authority of the War Trade Board,

from whom licenses, in conformity with said regulations, orders, limitations, and exceptions, will issue. Said proclamation of August 27, 1917, is hereby confirmed and continued, and all rules and regulations heretofore made in connection therewith or in pursuance thereof, including the Executive order of October 12, 1917, are likewise hereby confirmed and continued and made applicable to this proclamation.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the United States of America to be affixed.

Done in the District of Columbia this 29th day of November, in the year of our Lord 1917, and of the independence of the United States of America the 142d.

WOODROW WILSON.

By the President:

ROBERT LANSING,
Secretary of State.

WAR TRADE BOARD ANNOUNCES PROCEDURE ON EXPORT CONTROL.

The War Trade Board has made the following ruling with regard to certain of the commodities mentioned in the export proclamation of November 28, 1917 (given above), in order to avoid interference with the goods in transit; that is, that the following commodities may be exported to any country mentioned in said proclamation without individual licenses when the shipments are covered by railroad or ocean bill of lading marked "For export" and dated on or before December 1, 1917:

Stud-link chain cable.	Acetic acid.	Dried raisins.
Micrometers.	Glacial acetic acid.	Dried peaches.
Calipers.	Acetate of cellulose.	Soya-bean meal.
Lathe chucks.	All acetates.	Quebracho and chestnut extracts.
Antimony and antimony ore.	Beans.	Rubber.
Asbestos.	Eggs.	Sponges.
Balata.	Peanut meal.	Gutta-joolatong.
Mica and mica splittings.	Flaxseed.	Gutta-percha.
Strontium ores.	Starch.	Gutta-siak.
Titanium.	Canned peas.	Shellac.
Iridium.	Canned tomatoes.	Seedlac.
Opium.	Canned corn.	Cinchona bark.
Soda ash.	Dried prunes.	
Wood alcohol.	Dried apricots.	
	Dried apples.	

Additions to the Conservation List.

The War Trade Board has to-day made public the following list of commodities in addition to those already published whose conservation is necessary on account of the limited supply and the needs of the United States in its successful prosecution of the war.

Export licenses may be granted, however, for the following commodities when they are destined for actual war purposes or when they will directly contribute thereto, and also in certain unusual cases where such exports will contribute directly to the immediate production of important commodities required by the United States, and in certain other cases where the commodities may be exported in limited quantities without detriment to this country. Exporters are warned, however, that applications for licenses for the goods on this conservation list, as well as for those on the list published earlier,

may be refused, and that before committing themselves to sales they should make their application and procure a license. If this is not done and the goods are shipped before the license is received, then shippers run the risk of unnecessarily congesting the railroad terminals.

Shipments in Transit to Canada.

To facilitate exports to Canada and Newfoundland, there has been heretofore issued, through the customs service, a special license whereby goods have been permitted to enter Canada and Newfoundland without an individual license for each shipment, except in the case of the commodities which the board has heretofore found it necessary to conserve, and for whose exportation individual licenses have been required, as stated in the several announcements made by the board from time to time. With respect to the commodities below mentioned, which are now added to the "conservation list" in accordance with this statement, an individual export license will likewise be required for each shipment of such additional conserved commodities, which is covered by ocean and or railroad bill of lading marked "For export" and dated on or after December 2, 1917. This date has been fixed in order to avoid interference with goods in transit.

The commodities now added to the conservation list are as follows:

Beans.	Canned peas.
Cotton seed.	Canned tomatoes.
Corn meal.	Canned corn.
Corn flour.	Canned fish.
Corn grits.	Dried prunes.
Corn hominy.	Dried apples.
Rice flour.	Dried raisins.
Corustarch.	Dried apricots.
Peanut meal.	Dried peaches.
Soy-bean meal.	Molasses.
Copra.	Sirup.
Condensed milk, including powdered	Glucose.
milk, evaporated milk and preserved	Starch.
milk of all kinds.	

The attention of shippers is also called to the fact that the following articles have always been included in the conservation list under more general headings, namely:

Soya-bean oil, lard substitutes, cooking fats, oleomargarine, pork and pork products—fresh, preserved and canned (including, among other things, bacon, hams, shoulders, fatbacks, and sausages), beef and beef products (including canned, preserved, and fresh beef).

NEW EDITION OF PACIFIC COAST PILOT.

The third edition of the United States Coast Pilot, Pacific Coast, covering the coast and interior waters of the States of California, Oregon, and Washington, has been published by the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey. The volume is based mainly on the work of the survey, including the results of special examinations in 1916. Information also was furnished by the United States Engineers, the Lighthouse Service, navigators on the Pacific coast, and local authorities. The aids to navigation are corrected to September 10, 1917. Copies may be obtained at 50 cents each from the agencies of the Coast and Geodetic Survey.

GUAYAQUIL MARKET REPORT FOR OCTOBER.

[Consul General Frederic W. Goding, Guayaquil, Ecuador, Nov. 8.]

The cacao market for October opened at \$8.40, \$8, and \$7.60 for arriba, balao, and machala, respectively, which prices were maintained until the 22d of the month, when the association raised the price \$0.40 per quintal. The same market conditions prevailed here as last month; the difficulties for European shipment remain the same, and, as regards the American market, the stocks there have been kept up. Exports during the month amounted to 8,403,026 pounds, Chile taking 637 pounds, Peru 5,071, and the United States 8,397,318 pounds.

The coffee market was firm at \$10 for first grade and \$9.60 for second grade. There were 297,944 pounds shipped to Chile.

Hides were firm, with prices advancing. Quitos were quoted at \$28, serranos at \$24, criollos at \$22, and picados at \$10. The United States received all the hides exported, which amounted to 145,662 pounds.

Rubber was quiet, with prices stationary. Quotations were \$26 for maromas and \$22 for hojas. The 30,199 pounds exported went to the United States.

The ivory-nut market was depressed, shelled ivory nuts being quoted at \$1.20. The United States took all of the month's shipments—49,697 pounds.

Imports for October aggregated 16,154 packages, weighing 1,790 tons, and were received from the following countries: Chile, 160 packages; China, 5; Colombia, 64; Cuba, 8; France, 120; Italy, 1,507; Peru, 2,666; Spain, 268; United Kingdom, 86; and the United States, 11,270.

The exchange rate fluctuated around 258.

AUSTRALIAN IMPORT CONCESSION.

The official representative in the United States of the Australian Customs Department reports the receipt of a notification that any of the goods recently prohibited from importation, except ale, beer, stout, and cider, potable spirits, and motor bodies, will be admitted if a firm order was placed with the manufacturer on or before August 10 and the importer is committed to payment.

The official list of the goods prohibited from importation by proclamation of August 10 is as follows:

Ale and other beer, porter, cider, and perry, spirituous, in bulk or in bottle; potable spirits; perfumed spirits and bay rum; biscuits; confectionery; eggs in shell or otherwise; fur apparel; perfumery; jewelry; imitation jewelry and imitation precious stones; bodies for motor vehicles, whether imported separately or forming part of a complete vehicle.

As stated in the British Board of Trade Journal for November 8, the prohibition on perfumery applies to articles essentially perfumes, e. g., sachets and nonspirituous scents (perfumed spirits are prohibited as a separate item). Preparations such as face powders and creams, pomades, hair lotions, dentifrices, and smelling salts are not affected.

Additional announcements concerning the import restrictions and the concessions granted will be found in **COMMERCE REPORTS** for October 1, 3, 5, 6, 12, and 30 and November 1 and 13.

MARKET FOR ELECTRIC MOTORS IN TUNISIA.

[Consular Clerk Albert Taleb, Tunis, Oct. 19.]

The transportation difficulties have caused a fuel shortage in Tunisia with such resulting high prices as to make profitable the exploitation of the country's lignite deposits, and has forced the industrial community to seek other methods of relieving the situation. Among these is the substitution of electric for gasoline motors in the various small industries located in Tunis, as gasoline now costs about 19 cents per quart, and as the electric power company, which operates as a private monopoly under Government control, is bound to sell its product at the same rate as before the war—regardless of rising cost of materials and operating expenses. The company has tried to induce the city to adjust prices to changed conditions, but has failed. The same company controls the water and gas supply.

In the meantime people engaged in industrial enterprises perceive the opportunity the situation offers them to change from high-priced coal and gasoline to electric power procurable at prewar prices. As the contract binding the company extends for some 40 years yet, and as, under the regulations, no new applications for power can be refused, there is at present a general rush to install electric motors. The Government Tobacco Régie heads the list of prospects, with a 100 horsepower installation to provide for, followed by numerous flour mills and other industries scattered within the company's territory. It is estimated that this electrification scheme will involve about 250 industrial establishments, mostly of the smaller type.

Kind Generally Suited for the Market.

For the benefit of American manufacturers wishing to enter this market at this opportune time, the following data and suggestions are offered.

Motors from 1 to 7 horsepower are the most suitable. Firms needing more power prefer to have several small motors rather than one large one. The characteristics of the alternating current available are: Frequency, 50; phase, 3; voltage at consumer's terminal, 190; continuous current, 220 volts. Up to 1 kilowatt, motors may be 110 volts for continuous, or single phase, 110 or 190 volts for alternating.

Electric motors of French make have been sold in Tunis in the past, among which were the Grammont, Electricité de Nancy, etc., but it is becoming difficult to procure electric motors from that source. Very few motors are held for sale in Tunis, and about \$320 is asked for a 7 horsepower size. Practically no definite price can be obtained for future delivery of the 4 to 6 horsepower mostly in demand.

It is most important that correspondence with Tunis dealers should be in French, also catalogues and other printed matter. Catalogues in English are not understood and are so much wasted postage. Mailing a catalogue in French, it is suggested that specifications be given in French in the transmitting letter. Prices may be quoted in dollars f. o. b. New York, but estimate of freight rates to Tunis via Marseille, France, should be given.

[A list of prospective users and firms in Tunis likely to be interested in offers of electric motors was transmitted with this report, a copy of which can be obtained at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district or cooperative offices by referring to file No. 94838.]

MALAGA IN NEED OF MACHINERY RENEWALS.

[Consul Louis G. Dreyfus, Jr., Malaga, Spain.]

Very little construction work of importance is now under way in the vicinity of Malaga. Previous to the outbreak of the war, the narrow-gauge railroad, Compañia de Ferrocarriles Suburbanos de Malaga, which is owned by Belgians and is now operated from Fuengirola de Velez, was extending its coastal lines to Granada and Cadiz. This work was interrupted by the war.

This railroad company is administered by progressive managers and engineers. It did not, however, employ excavating machinery in digging its cuts. In this part of Spain very little work is done on a large scale. Laborers' wages average about 2 pesetas (now about 44 cents) per day. Labor is as plentiful and unskilled as it is cheap, and machinery is not used as a general rule. Picks and shovels are the principal implements, and if extensive work is to be done these are supplemented by portable tracks and cars.

Work of Port Improvement Begun.

Work has been begun for the removal of sand from the mouth of the Guadalmedina, which flows through the city of Malaga. The port commission appropriated 27,000 pesetas for this purpose, and the central Government has given a credit up to 200,000 pesetas. The engineers propose to use hand labor, and a narrow-gauge portable steel track with cars, which is already available, to carry on the work.

There are 121 mines in operation in the Malaga consular district, principally of lead and iron. Many of the large iron mines are under English control, and the lead workings are French and Belgian. This militates against the introduction of American mining machinery, as the orders are often placed by the home offices outside of Spain. A market, however, exists for ordinary tools and implements, some pneumatic and hand drills, wire cables, and as in excavation work for portable tracks and cars. It is reported that the existing machinery and tools in general are in poor condition, as few renewals have been made since the outbreak of the war. There is a good opportunity to enter this market, although high freight rates offer an obstacle to imports at this time.

THE AMERICAN DOLLAR AND SPANISH EXCHANGE.

[Consul Paul H. Foster, Bilbao, Spain, Oct. 14.]

The interchange of commodities between Spain and the United States during the year 1916 was approximately \$96,000,000, the Spanish exports amounting to \$33,000,000 and the American exports to \$63,000,000, leaving a trade balance of \$30,000,000 in favor of the United States. During the year 1917, to the date of this report, the proportion in favor of the United States has increased markedly in the Bilbao district, and presumably in the rest of Spain. Yet there has existed until quite recently the anomalous condition of the creditor nation exporting gold to the debtor nation.

This condition has come about through the circumstance that the balance of trade as between Spain and Great Britain is in favor of

the former, whereas the shipment of gold from the latter country to Spain is being restricted. The result has been the accumulation of large balances to the credit of Spanish bankers in London, and a consequent decline in exchange from a normal of 26 pesetas to the pound sterling and a par of 25.21 pesetas to a recent average of 21 pesetas to the pound. Spanish bankers have sold these British balances, or a portion thereof, in New York, obtaining with the proceeds American gold, which they exported to Spain. As the pound costs only 21 pesetas, and was sold in New York for \$4.75 and \$4.76, it was quite a profitable arrangement, making the dollar cost them only 4.31 pesetas as against a par value of 5.18 pesetas and a normal value (in view of the adverse balance of trade) of 5.40 pesetas.

Spanish Balances Settled with British Exchange.

It is quite clear, therefore, that Spain settles its adverse balances with the United States through the medium of the cheap exchange on London rather than directly, which accounts for the apparent decline of the American dollar in this market. The proportion works out as follows: The par value of the pound (25.21 pesetas) is to the present exchange value of the pound (21 pesetas) as the par value of the dollar (5.18 pesetas) is to the present exchange value of the dollar (4.31 pesetas).

The cause of this disparity lies in the fact that British bankers have created a gold credit in the United States, which has maintained the value of the pound sterling exchange to within 2 per cent of the par, and have not done so in Spain, possibly not considering the amount involved of sufficient importance, so that the discount on the pound is approximately 17 per cent from the par. The remedy would appear to be either for British and French banking interests to establish a gold credit in Spain, based on the Spanish securities held by them to cover their unfavorable balances; or for the United States to permit the exportation of sufficient gold to cover the difference between the favorable balance due the United States and the unfavorable balances due to Spain by England, France, and Italy. This latter may not appear to be desirable from the American point of view.

UTILIZATION OF SULPHITE LYE IN SWEDEN.

[Vice Consul Arthur E. J. Reilly, Stockholm.]

At the laboratory of the Reymerholm Co. (Reymersholms Gamla Spritförädlings AB.) experiments have recently been completed with a new method for the utilization of refuse lye in the manufacture of sulphite. The difficulty in using the lye has consisted in concentrating it. By the new method the water is removed by freezing, which eliminates four-fifths of the water. The method is cheaper than that formerly employed and is considered to involve a reduction of the expenses by about 40 per cent. While the older method is based on the use of steam, water power is used for the new. By this method also the organic substances in the lye are obtained in such a form that they can be used in many ways for dyestuffs, agglutinative substances, etc.

IMPROVEMENT IN SOUTH AFRICAN FEATHER MARKET.

[Consul John W. Dye, Port Elizabeth, Oct. 13.]

The ostrich-feather market has within the past month shown more life than for some time past. Sales for the weeks ending October 2 and 9 increased by a good percentage over September sales, and prices were on an average 10 to 15 per cent higher. The quality of feathers offered was not of the best, but it was a fair average assortment. Very few high-grade feathers are plucked nowadays, as the birds have been seriously neglected, but large stocks of high-grade feathers are doubtless being held for better prices.

The demand for all better grade whites and feminas was firm at improved prices. Blacks, drabs, and tails of good quality were firm. Common lots were cheaper. There is an unusual demand for certain grades of spadonas for the American market, and these are selling at exceptional prices. If this demand continues, it may induce the farmers to begin breeding again.

Sales for the week ending September 18 totaled 7,245 pounds and the amount realized therefor \$20,733. The following week 6,829 pounds were sold for \$19,189. During the week ending October 2 7,679 pounds brought \$30,645, and in the week ending October 8 the 8,819 pounds of feathers disposed of brought \$32,033. At the last-mentioned sale the ruling prices were:

Description.	Price per pound.	Description.	Price per pound.
Whites:		Drabs:	
Good average.....	\$2.71-18.25	Good length.....	\$1.46-2.31
Ordinary.....	5.60- 9.73	Ordinary.....	.85- 1.10
Common.....	2.92- 5.47	Common.....	.24- .49
Feminas:		Tails:	
Good average.....	6.08-12.17	White.....	1.46- 2.07
Ordinary.....	4.38- 7.30	Ordinary.....	.85- 1.10
Common.....	1.95- 4.87	Common.....	.49- .61
Blacks:		Tails, feminas:	
Good length.....	2.19- 4.26	Good.....	1.10- 1.82
Ordinary.....	.85- 1.10	Ordinary.....	.61- .85
Common.....	.24- .37	Common.....	.37- .49
		Spadonas.....	2.19- 3.16

IMPORTANT ARGENTINE SHIPPING DEAL.

[Consul General W. Henry Robertson, Buenos Aires, Oct. 10.]

One of the largest deals in the history of the Argentine mercantile marine occurred during the latter part of August, 1917, when a syndicate, said to be composed of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Co., the Chargeurs Réunis, and an Italian line, effected an arrangement whereby the Mihanovich family's interest in the Compañia Argentina de Navegacion (Nicolas Mihanovich Ltda.) was purchased. This transaction was put through by the well-known Italian firm of ship-owners and agents, Dodero Hermanos.

According to the local newspapers, the fleet composing the Mihanovich Line represented two-thirds of the national mercantile marine and included steamers, tugs, barges, launches, and sailing vessels to the number of some 340 hulls. When the transfer took place, the line had a cargo service along the Argentine coast to the south, the regular lines having been suspended some time before on account of the sale of the ships of large tonnage. It also maintained regular services on the Plate, Uruguay, Parana, and Paraguay Rivers, and owned the most important shipyards in Argentina and Uruguay.

ITALIAN PREMIUMS FOR NEXT YEAR'S CEREAL HARVEST.

[Consul General David F. Wilber, Genoa, Oct. 27.]

A new lieutenant's decree, published October 13, 1917, establishes the premiums to be given for wheat, maize, oats, barley, and rye of the harvest of 1918, which is requisitioned or ceded to the State in the Provinces of southern Italy or of the islands.

For all the wheat, maize, oats, barley, and rye of the harvest of the coming year in the Provinces of Sicily, Sardinia, Calabria, Basilicata, Puglia, Campania, Molise, and of the Abruzzi are granted, for every quintal (220.46 pounds) of produce, in addition to the price-established premiums of 9 lire for hard wheat, 7.50 lire for soft and semi-hard wheat, 5.50 lire for maize, 5.50 lire for oats, 6 lire for barley, and 6 lire for rye.

Procedure in Case Rent is Paid in Kind.

The premium is paid by the State, together with the price, to the owner of the produce that is ceded or requisitioned. The proprietor or agrarian undertaker who demands as rent payment in kind, of the produce mentioned, must restore to the cultivator and producer the premium obtained from the State on the amount of produce ceded or requisitioned. The direct cultivator or producer has the right to withhold, at the moment of liquidation of his accounts with the proprietor or agrarian contractor, a part of the produce equivalent to the premium due on the amount of produce constituting the payment in kind, and obligation in connection with it.

In cases of contracts for sharing, in whatever manner they are drawn up, the amount of premium due to each of the sharers will be in proportion to the amount of produce due each of them according to contract, and requisitioned or ceded to the State.

[Various Italian decrees and regulations relating to cereals were mentioned in COMMERCE REPORTS for July 31, Oct. 9, 13, and 29, 1917.]

TANNERS' COUNCIL MOVES HEADQUARTERS.

The Tanners' Council of the United States has moved its offices to 738 Twelfth Street Northwest, Washington, D. C. The council is made up of the members of the National Association of Tanners, the Morocco Manufacturers' National Association, and the Patent and Enamelled Leather Manufacturers' Association, representing about 90 per cent of the tanning industry of the country. It originally established headquarters in Washington at 806 Union Trust Building, when the association mentioned removed their principal offices to the National Capital for the primary purpose of rendering service to the officials of the Government during the period of the war.

The council maintains records of statistical and other information relating to various phases of the leather industry, as well as the importation and distribution of hides, skins, and tanning materials. Certain well-informed men engaged in the tanning industry also have given up their business and are in the office in order to take care of matters of a technical character, and a foreign-trade specialist and a trained chemical investigator (now temporarily aiding the United States Bureau of Standards) are on the Tanners' Council staff.

PUMPING MACHINERY IN THE BARCELONA DISTRICT.

[Consul General Carl Bailey Hurst, Barcelona, Spain.]

An excellent market may be found in the Barcelona district for electric pumping machinery.

Factory buildings here are rarely over three stories high, the majority being two-story structures. Office buildings are of four, five, and even six stories, but can not be called exclusively office structures as the term is employed in the United States, since suites are arranged for housekeeping.

Adequate water pressure is carried by the city of Barcelona, and flooding of basements is very rare. The electric currents that are supplied here are both direct and alternating. In modern buildings central steam heating is generally installed for serving the entire house, although some houses have small furnaces in the apartments.

Spanish Pumps Extensively Used.

In this city of 800,000 inhabitants there is no building in which ice water is known to be filtered and circulated. From 80 to 90 per cent of the pumps employed in the country are of Spanish production. Self-contained power pumps now here have been imported chiefly from England, the United States, and France.

Paragraph 553 of the Spanish customs tariff reads: "Agricultural machinery, including pumps for agricultural work and separate parts of such machinery and pumps, \$0.875 per 100 pounds, gross weight."

Spain's imports of these articles during the past three years in metric tons of 2,204.6 pounds each have been: In 1914, 7,294; in 1915, 4,658; and in 1916, 7,850.

Paragraph 561 of the Spanish customs tariff reads: "Pumps of all kinds (except those intended for agricultural purposes) and separate parts of same, except flywheels, \$2.19 per 100 pounds, gross weight."

Imports of these pumps during the past three years in metric tons have been: In 1914, 615; in 1915, 274; and in 1916, 350.

Terms of Sale Important.

In correspondence with firms here it would be advisable to use Spanish. American manufacturers at the start should offer prospective customers in Spain the easiest terms of sale practicable, which ought to compare favorably with those granted under normal conditions by European manufacturers, who have in the past often given credits of 60 to 90 days, or cash 30 days after receipt of merchandise. It is true now, however, when competition has lessened, that exporters can be less lenient in their terms, but in view of future business this is hardly expedient.

Names and addresses of importers and dealers in pumps and pumping machinery, as well as of persons who have recently applied at the American consulate general for agencies for American machinery, are forwarded. Care has been taken to omit the names of houses known to have dealings with the enemy.

[The names of firms mentioned in this report may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 92929.]

AUSTRALIAN PROHIBITION ON TIN-PLATE MANUFACTURES.

The Government of Australia has prohibited as from January 1 next the importation of the following articles made of tin plate: Crown seals, bird cages, tin or other metal toys, metal advertising boardings, signs, and plates, fancy canisters, letter boxes, stoves, phonograph horns, and kerosene pumps. From the same date the following goods, when packed in tin plate containers, are also prohibited: Tobacco, cigarettes, shoe polish, confectionery, powders of all kinds, soaps except liquid soaps, spices, dry pharmaceutical preparations, linoleum polishes, metal polishes, dry foodstuffs except the following: Biscuits, infants' and invalids' foods, dried milk foods.

The entry will be permitted, however, of any of the above goods for which a firm order was placed with the manufacturer before November 10 and which were in course of manufacture on that date and for which the importer is committed to payment.

The bureau is indebted to Mr. Ernest Hall, of the Australian Department of Trade and Customs for this information.

The Australian prohibition on imports of tin plates and terne plates except from the United Kingdom and British countries was noted in COMMERCE REPORTS for December 11, 1916. Shipments on the water at the date of the proclamation and goods manufactured in special sizes for the Australian trade were to be admitted. Restrictions on the use of tin plate were discussed in COMMERCE REPORTS for August 23 and 28.

ELECTRO AGRICULTURAL JOINT-STOCK COMPANY IN SWEDEN.

[Vice Consul Arthur E. J. Rellly, Stockholm.]

A company called the Electro Agricultural Joint Stock Co. has been founded, having as its object the exploitation of Hj. Cassel's invention. Mr. Cassel has after many years of experimenting succeeded in solving the problem of transferring electric power to self-propelled motor plows and other farming machinery. Experiments will be made at one of the company's factories at Älfsjö.

OFFICES OF THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE.**DISTRICT OFFICES.**

NEW YORK: 734 Customhouse.
 BOSTON: 1801 Customhouse.
 CHICAGO: 504 Federal Building.
 ST. LOUIS: 402 Third National Bank Building.
 NEW ORLEANS: 1020 Hibernia Bank Building.
 SAN FRANCISCO: 807 Customhouse.
 SEATTLE: 848 Henry Building.

COOPERATIVE OFFICES.

CLEVELAND: Chamber of Commerce.
 CINCINNATI: Chamber of Commerce.
 CINCINNATI: General Freight Agent, Southern Railway, 96 Ingalls Building.
 LOS ANGELES: Chamber of Commerce.
 PHILADELPHIA: Chamber of Commerce.
 CHATTANOOGA: South American Agent, Southern Railway System.
 DAYTON: Greater Dayton Association.
 PORTLAND, OREG.: Chamber of Commerce.

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the Bureau and its district and cooperative offices. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and state opportunity number. The Bureau does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases. Symbols: * Reported by American consular officers; † Reported by commercial attachés and commercial agents; ‡ Direct inquiries received by the Bureau.

In considering the following "opportunities" special regard should be had to the laws and regulations governing export licenses and trading with the enemy.

Carriage knobs-----	25965	Machinery-----	25966
Celluloid-----	25960	Paper-----	25961, 25963
Cotton goods-----	25962, 25965, 25967	Tea containers-----	25959
Curtain fasteners-----	25965	Woolen serge-----	25965

25959.*—A company in India desires to purchase paper or fiber containers for tea. Monthly shipments of 50,000 one-pound sizes are desired. Samples of the kind of container desired may be examined at the bureau or its district offices. (Refer to file No. 95019.) Containers should be shipped flat to save freight charges. Correspondence may be in English. Reference.

25960.†—A comb manufacturers' syndicate in France desires to be placed in communication with American firms which could supply them with unmanufactured celluloid.

25961.*—A man in Portugal desires to buy newsprint paper in rolls 98 centimeters wide, weighing 48 grams per square meter, maximum diameter, 90 centimeters, with shaft hole averaging 8 millimeters. Quotations should be made f. o. b. New York on 100-ton lots. Credit will be opened in New York for payment. A sample of the kind of paper now used can be examined at the bureau or its district offices. (Refer to file No. 92756.) Correspondence may be in English.

25962.*—A firm in India is in the market for cotton piece goods, white and colored, such as shirtings, etc. Samples should be submitted. Quotations should be made f. o. b. shipping port. Payment will be made by cash against documents or on delivery of goods. Goods should be packed in wooden cases with contents wrapped in moisture-proof material. Correspondence may be in English. Reference.

25963.*—A man in Switzerland desires to purchase or secure an agency for the sale of paper, especially parchment, silk paper, and one side colored paper. Samples of these papers may be examined at the bureau or its district offices. (Refer to file No. 94491.) Shipments are desired via French port. Correspondence may be in English. References.

25964.*—An agency is desired by a firm in Portugal for the sale of tin foil. It also desires to make outright purchases. Quotations should be made f. o. b. American port. Credit will be opened in New York for payment. Correspondence may be in English. References.

25965.*—A company in Switzerland desires to purchase about 1,000 yards of checked linen or cotton cloth 72 inches wide; about 1,500 yards of white woolen saddle-serge 44 inches wide; about 500 gross of brass fasteners for curtains; and about 500 gross of japanned carriage knobs. Samples of the kind of cloth desired may be examined at the bureau or its district offices. (Refer to file No. 93978.) Quotations should be made f. o. b. New York. Payment will be made against documentary credit at New York bank. Correspondence may be in English. References.

25966.*—An agency is desired by a company in England for the sale of hot-mixing paving machines, i. e., machines for mixing bituminous macadam. It does not desire connection with companies already represented in the United Kingdom. Reference.

25967.*—A merchant in India is in the market for cotton piece goods. Payment will be made by cash against documents or confirmed bank credit opened in New York. Correspondence may be in English. Reference.

COMMERCE REPORTS

PRINCETON, N. J.



DAILY CONSULAR AND TRADE REPORTS
ISSUED DAILY BY THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE



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No. 282 Washington, D. C., Monday, December 3

1917

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WAR-LOAN BONDS IN PAYMENT FOR SWISS WATCHES.

[Consul Lewis W. Haskell, Geneva, Oct. 20.]

A London watch-importing house which does a large business with Switzerland has just sent a circular to its Swiss clients proposing to pay them in part for orders placed in 5 per cent British War-Loan bonds, redeemable in five years, at 102. The British importing house calls attention to the attractive features of this plan, citing that the manufacturers will receive 5 per cent, besides a premium at redemption, and such advance as may take place in the price of the bonds on the market. The British house further engages to rebuy the bonds at any time at the market rate.

SWEDISH LUMBER INDUSTRY PRODUCING LUBRICATING OILS.

[Vice Consul Arthur E. J. Reilly, Stockholm.]

The manufacture of lubricating oils at a number of places within the lumber district where there are sulphite factories has begun. The oil is obtained from liquid rosin.

Among the companies that are taking it up on a large scale are Vifsta Varv, Kopparbergs Hofors, and Iggesund.

At present the wood-pulp plants get their sulphur replenished to a certain extent by the roasting of sulphur pyrite in ovens constructed for such purpose.

SYNDICATE TO WORK SWISS PEAT BEDS.

[Consul Lewis Haskell, Geneva, Nov. 2.]

According to the Geneva Tribune, a syndicate proposes at an early date to ask the Federal Council for a \$1,000,000 loan for the development of the peat industry in Switzerland. The extraction of peat will be undertaken on a large scale, it being planned to work 24 peat fields in the coming spring.

DUTCH CENTRAL EXPORT BUREAU ESTABLISHED.

[Paul L. Edwards, secretary to commercial attaché, Rotterdam, Netherlands, Oct. 17.]

On Monday, October 15, the Minister of Agriculture, Industry, and Commerce called a meeting in The Hague of representatives of Dutch agricultural, horticultural, industrial, and labor interests, for the purpose of laying the foundation for the establishment of the Dutch Central Export Bureau. [See COMMERCE REPORTS for Nov. 20, 1917.] The Minister announced the appointment of the five managing directors, and stated that the rest of the directorate would be elected by the shareholders so that the different interests should be represented as follows:

Each of the following five groups will have three representatives: (1) Commerce and industry, (2) agriculture, (3) market gardening, (4) finance, and (5) Dutch colonial interests. There will also be one director for each of the following groups: (1) Netherlands communes, (2) cooperative consumption and purchasing societies, (3) socialistic labor interests, (4) nonsocialistic labor interests. In addition there will be six directors who will represent the Government, as follows: One each for (1) Finance, (2) War, (3) Colonies, (4) Foreign Affairs, and two for the Minister of Agriculture, Industry, and Commerce. Mr. S. de Graaf, former director of Home Affairs in the Dutch East Indies, is to be president of the board of directors.

It is understood that no very definite measures were adopted at the initial meeting, although the question of Holland's agricultural agreements with the belligerents was discussed. Whether the obligations to the different belligerents, which now rest upon the Agricultural Export Bureau by virtue of the agricultural agreements, will be taken over by the Central Export Bureau in their entirety, is not yet settled.

HULL FISHING INDUSTRY.

[Consul Homer M. Byington, Hull, England, Nov. 9.]

According to a report of the acting chief fishery officer of Hull, England, to the North Eastern Sea Fisheries Committee, covering the principal ports and stations in this district where such records are kept, there was landed during July, August, and September wet fish to the amount of 670,780 hundredweight, or 142,729 hundredweight less than in the corresponding months of 1916. (Hundredweight=112 pounds.) The total value of all kinds of fish, including shellfish, landed during the quarter was \$7,030,250, being an increase of \$761,125 over the value of the fish landed during the corresponding period of 1916. One Hull skipper is known to have earned over \$121,700 since the war began, another \$73,000 in two years, whilst the balance sheet of a local firm of trawler owners, recently presented to its shareholders, showed that one of their skippers had been paid no less than \$38,930 during the year covered by the account.

It is interesting to note the value of fish landed in the district during the past four years. The total value of all kinds of fish landed in 1913 was \$21,556,000; in 1914, \$19,463,500; in 1915, \$20,176,925; in 1916, \$21,232,900; and, if the present conditions continue to the end of this year, there will be a further increase in value for 1917 despite the smaller landings.

CONSULAR TRADE-EXTENSION WORK IN LONDON.

[Consul Harry A. McBride, London, England, Nov. 7.]

Regulations and war legislation controlling importation and exportation have had an unfavorable effect upon the extension of ordinary trade, and before the United States entered the war no assistance could, of course, be given in the extension of trade in contraband articles. Despite these handicaps, gratifying results have accrued from the publication in **COMMERCE REPORTS** of "Trade Opportunities" submitted by the London consulate general. One London firm reports that an order for \$10,000 worth of builder's hardware and furnishings has been placed with an Illinois manufacturer through the efforts of this office. From another local firm the following letter has been received in reference to electrical goods:

We are pleased to inform you that the result of the various communications received from your manufacturers has been the means of our placing considerable business. We have placed orders to the amount of \$15,000 for incandescent burners and for \$1,500 worth of electric-bell batteries and \$1,250 worth of electric torches—most of which consignments we have already received. You will therefore see that the outcome of your interest has been considerable and favorable for the American manufacturers concerned.

Through the medium of a "Trade Opportunity" a local buyer of cotton yarn has received information that is very useful to him and will probably lead to some business in the future, although it has not yet been possible to place orders owing to the war. A firm of chemical merchants states that connections have been made which have resulted in the purchase of American chemicals; and another firm has placed orders for buttons and dress fasteners. Unfortunately an important order for syringes went to Japan because the American quotations on them were higher.

Inquiries for vulcanite hair combs and corset-eyeleting machines received no response; offers made to firms interested in cement asbestos sheets, aluminum ware, boot and shoe lace machinery, and wall paper were not of a satisfactory nature, and hence the American manufacturers did not receive orders; and a local merchant who wanted to buy hand bags failed to find the exact article he required and so started making the bags here.

CHARTS, COAST PILOTS, AND TIDE TABLES LISTED.

A catalogue of charts, coast pilots, and tide tables for 1918 has been published by the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey. All the catalogues of the Survey are published for free distribution and may be obtained upon application at any of the sales agencies of the Survey or by letter addressed to the Superintendent of the Coast and Geodetic Survey, Washington, D. C. This general catalogue, Serial No. 70, contains 230 pages, with maps of all the sections of the country and its possessions that are represented by the various publications, and a large amount of other information for those who would obtain practical equipment in their work as navigators. The list also includes official maps and charts not published by the Survey, miscellaneous maps and plans not adapted for the use of navigators, and topographic maps of the Philippine Islands.

COTTON GOODS IN THE BOMBAY PRESIDENCY.

An investigation which had been conducted by a representative of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce has revealed some of the difficulties that stood in the way of developing a good American share in the very large cotton-goods trade of Bombay, India. The report of the investigation has been published by the Bureau, showing the extent of the foreign purchases that are made by the Presidency and giving the details of participation in the market by manufacturers in the United States, the reasons for their failure to make the proportion of sales that might be expected, an analysis of the kinds of cloth used in the Bombay district, and practical suggestions for entering the field.

Bombay Presidency took more than \$80,000,000 worth of foreign-made cotton goods in 1914, but American manufacturers supplied less than 1 per cent of the total. Our cotton goods are more in evidence in Bombay, however, than in Madras, Bengal, or Burma, according to Commercial Agent Ralph M. Odell, author of the Government's report. The difficulties, stated briefly, are the inability or unwillingness of American cotton manufacturers to produce the kinds of goods that are most widely consumed in the market and the lack of proper selling facilities for reaching the trade. Prior to the war it is doubtful if it would have been possible for Americans to compete in many of the lines of cotton goods imported, but changed conditions in the cost of production in countries that heretofore have been the chief sources of supply appear to have enlarged the opportunities for the development of our trade.

Copies of the bulletin, entitled "Cotton Goods in British India, Part IV, Bombay Presidency," Special Agents Series No. 149, may be obtained at 15 cents each from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C., or from any district or cooperative office of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

WINE CROP OF ALGERIA IN 1917.

[Consul Arthur C. Frost, Algiers, Oct. 27.]

The wine crop of Algeria for 1917 is distinctly inferior to that of a year ago. The official statistics of the vintage will not be issued for several weeks; but, according to the general estimate, the yield approximates 6,000,000 hecoliters (158,502,300 gallons), compared with 8,781,266 hectoliters (231,975,100 gallons) in 1916.

The season's unusual dryness, which lasted from spring until the full maturity of the grape, has resulted in a wine appreciably stronger than that of last year. Phylloxera and other plant diseases did considerable damage to the vines, and the late siroccos further tended to reduce the output. The lack of labor was also a handicap, especially in the Department of Oran, which this season was unable to draw upon Morocco to any extent.

Prices range much higher than last year, and the return to the wine producers promises to be good. Transportation facilities to France—which country takes a large percentage of the crop—are far from normal, and there is likely to be a marked shortage in barrels and bottles.

SALT BEDS IN THE NETHERLANDS.

[Consul Frank W. Mahin, Amsterdam, Nov. 2.]

Holland has always had such an abundance of salt for all purposes and so cheap that nobody ever thought of economy in connection with it. But a change is now observable. Supplies of salt formerly came to Holland chiefly from England, Germany, and Portugal. Now they come from Germany only, and in less quantity than the consumption.

The threatened dearth has led to renewed consideration of undeveloped salt beds in the Dutch Provinces of Gelderland and Overijssel. In one district the soil and topography are such that water is reached a short distance under the surface. There, in effect, exists a subterranean salt lake. To collect the salt, this brine would be pumped out and subjected to the necessary process. Here, it is believed, results may be obtained sooner than in another district, where serious technical difficulties are encountered; and it is stated that the Dutch Government encourages operations in the former district because of the promised speedier results.

In the other district solid salt exists; but shafts and passages are necessary in order to mine this salt, and their construction would mean an indefinitely long time before salt would be extracted. However, beneath these salt beds, it is averred, are important layers of coal. It would thus seem worth while to mine salt in that district if for no other reason than to get at the much-needed coal lying beneath it. Another incentive arises from the doubt if the salt that could be extracted from the brine in the other district would be sufficient for Holland's needs, aside from the question of accumulating a surplus for future protection against scarcity.

No statistics or estimates are given as to the probable or possible quantity of the salt deposits in the districts mentioned.

INCREASE IN SCOTTISH DRUG PRICES.

[Vice Consul Thomas H. Bevan, Glasgow, Nov. 13.]

Practically all drug prices are tending to rise, notwithstanding the fact that business continues rather quiet. The upward tendency in the price of quinine is more marked in face of the greatly reduced stocks. The quantity of castor oil available for medicinal purposes is extremely limited; and small quantities, which are not subject to the official maximum price limit, sell at fancy rates. The position is much the same as regards practically all the seed oils.

The upward tendency of antifebrin continues. Aspirin, on the other hand, is offered at rather lower rates. Benzoic acid and sodium benzoate are dearer; the decline, which had been going on for some little time, having received a check. Salicylic acid and sodium salicylate are in good supply and steady. Camphor is very firm. Cream of tartar is again dearer, and the scarcity is becoming still more acute; while olive oil is selling at exorbitant prices.

Among other articles which are dearer are lithia carbonate, lithia citrate, terebene, mercury ointment, ipecacuanha, balsam Peru, potassium acetate, and senega root. The demand for eucalyptus oil continues good, and higher prices seem inevitable. Phenazone is rather scarcer and prices are steadier. Balsam copaiba is very firm, and extreme prices are paid for any potassium permanganate that may be offered.

THE THIRD SAMPLE FAIR AT LYON.

[Consul J. E. Jones, Lyon, France, Nov. 6.]

Great preparations are being made by the committee having charge of the Lyon Sample Fair to make the third exhibition, which opens on March 1 next and continues for two weeks, a greater success than its predecessors. The erection of booths has commenced, and, following out the general plan for a permanent exhibition, booths of concrete are being built about the site for the new structure. Already a large number of applications have been made for space, and it is confidently believed there will be a greater number of exhibitors at this third Sample Fair than ever before. [See COMMERCE REPORTS for Aug. 6, 1917.]

Increased Space for American Catalogue Display.

Under the auspices of the Department of State, the American consulate at Lyon will have at its disposal more space than last year, and a great effort will be made to make the display of American catalogues a thoroughly representative one. Last year the success of the catalogue exhibit was most satisfactory, and the big buyers who visited the fair were put in direct touch with American manufacturers, with the result that contracts were made aggregating many millions of dollars.

It is not thought that many American firms will exhibit at the coming fair, although it would be of material benefit if they could. There is no reason, however, why they can not send their catalogues, and not a day should be lost in forwarding them, addressed to:

The American Consul,
Lyon,
France.

(Catalogues for the Lyon Sample Fair of 1918.)

At the last fair manufacturers put off until the very last minute the dispatch of their catalogues, with the result that for several months after the fair had closed catalogues continued to arrive. The mails are not very regular these days, and catalogues should be sent without delay.

Translations for Buyers—Card Index.

Catalogues printed in French are preferable, with weights and measures expressed in metric terms, but manufacturers should not hesitate to send catalogues in English, for it is the purpose of the consul to continue the system in operation during the last fair of making translations gratis. [See COMMERCE REPORTS for June 1, 1917.] Two or three catalogues at the most should be sent, and the postage on these should be fully prepaid. The work of card-indexing these catalogues is now under way, and all efforts are being made to put the catalogue exhibit in such shape that it can be transferred to the exhibition booth as soon as that is finished.

While as a general proposition catalogues do not figure to any great extent in the sale of merchandise, they are most important at this time in putting foreign buyers in direct communication with American manufacturers and in furnishing a foundation upon which to build a permanent foreign trade.

[The American Committee for the Lyon Fair, of which George B. Van Cleave is chairman, has established headquarters at 1790 Broadway, New York City,

where application blanks may be obtained. A copy of the regulations governing the forthcoming fair and a descriptive booklet containing numerous views of the city of Lyon and of the last sample fair there may be inspected at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce and its district and cooperative offices upon referring to file No. 95124.]

OPPORTUNITIES FOR AMERICAN ZINC IN CHINA.

[Consul General Thomas Sammons, Shanghai, Oct. 1.]

In 1914 the net imports of spelter into China were 1,145,600 pounds, with an approximate value of \$150,000. Of that amount more than 57 per cent came from Germany and Austria-Hungary and more than 40 per cent from Great Britain and Hongkong. In 1915 only 36,800 pounds, valued at \$15,176, were imported, of which nearly 98 per cent came from Hongkong. In 1916, 87,200 pounds were imported, at an approximate value of \$43,185, and more than 89 per cent of this amount came from Japan.

Zinc sheets and plates which were imported into China amounted to 1,299,067 pounds, valued at \$200,000 in 1914. Thirty-three per cent came from Belgium, 28 per cent from Great Britain and Hongkong, and more than 17 per cent from Germany. There were 137,067 pounds, valued at \$49,800, imported in 1915, of which more than 42 per cent came from Great Britain and Hongkong, and more than 26 per cent from the United States. In 1916 835,467 pounds, valued at \$372,200, were imported, of which more than 65 per cent came from the United States and more than 16 per cent each from Great Britain and Japan.

Imports of Various Zinc Manufactures.

Of all other kinds of zinc manufactures 774,400 pounds were imported at an approximate cost of \$107,300 in 1914, of which more than 63 per cent came from Germany and Austria-Hungary, and almost 26 per cent from Belgium; 24,933 pounds, at a cost of \$8,800 in 1915, of which more than 78 per cent came from Japan and 16 per cent from the Philippine Islands; and 122,800 pounds, valued at \$90,925, in 1916, of which almost 54 per cent came from France and more than 40 per cent from Japan.

These statistics show that there have been great declines in imports of these materials during 1915 and 1916. This apparently was because the usual sources of supply had been cut off by the war. There would appear to be an excellent opportunity for American manufacturers to capture and hold the future trade in these commodities.

Methods of Reaching Market.

Nearly all dealings with consumers of all kinds of imported articles in China are through importing houses, of which there is a large number here, and it would be advisable for American firms to communicate with some of these houses with a view to having them handle their goods unless they could send their own representatives here to look over the field and establish branches. By having their lines handled by importers who have connections in the United States they could arrange for settlements to be made through such connections or could make settlements through drafts drawn against acceptance or delivery of shipping documents in the usual way.

USE OF ELECTRICITY RESTRICTED IN PROVINCE OF TURIN.

[Consul Joseph Emerson Haven, Turin, Italy, Oct. 23.]

In view of the amount of electric power required for the production of war material, and the limited quantity of fuel available for operating the several generating stations for electricity, a decree has been issued by the Prefect of Turin restricting the use of such energy. As a result, the illumination in this Province is reduced by 50 per cent.

Both day and night electric illumination as an advertisement is prohibited in front of all theaters, motion-picture houses, or shop windows and similar advertising for other purposes is forbidden. The operation of several of the less important lines of street cars is suspended during the war.

Household Uses—Performances at Theaters.

The use of all electrical apparatus is prohibited, with the exception of the electric flatiron, which may be used only from 8 p. m. to 7 a. m. Illumination for stairways and halls is reduced to lamps of 16 candlepower. All theaters, motion-picture houses, concert halls, cafés, and other places of amusement are to remain closed during the day, with the exception of Sundays and holidays, and motion-picture performances are permitted only from 7.30 to 11 p. m. Small shops may use intermittent electric power from 4 to 8 p. m.

These restrictions have been imposed in order to economize and avoid a waste of power such as previously took place in shops, theaters, etc., where lights were kept burning all day, and thus reserve electric energy for the many factories of this district.

POSSIBILITY OF INCREASING ENGLISH USE OF CONCRETE.

[Consul E. Haldeman Dennison, Birmingham.]

Concrete is not as extensively used in the United Kingdom as in the United States, especially for house construction and road building. While reinforced-concrete construction is employed in other parts of the country, there is little demand for it in this part of the Midlands, because bricks are so cheap that brick construction is generally preferred. On account of the dampness of the English climate, buildings must be damp proof, and if concrete were employed it would have to be in the hollow-block form, which would add considerably to the cost.

Merits Not Yet Widely Investigated.

The English have not yet given the claims of concrete in its new developments the consideration it deserves for the construction of efficient and convenient houses.

Concrete mixers are used in engineering construction, and many such machines are on the market, including some of American make. A thoroughly good concrete mixer can be sold here if the price is right, but in this particular line severe competition will be encountered. Several British manufacturers make very satisfactory mixers, and in addition various American makes are offered in the British market. Before the war there was also a good sale of German machines. The leading industrial nations of the world have been quick to realize the great future of concrete in all kinds of

engineering and building construction, and the value of the British market. Prices are shaded down as far as possible.

Growing Demands of Traffic.

Very few attempts have been made in England to build unprotected concrete roads, such as are commonly seen in the United States and Canada. It has been suggested that this country might well follow the example of the Americans. Concrete roads have been constructed in a few places here and when properly built have given satisfaction. A writer in a technical journal states that it will be the duty of all highway engineers carefully to consider the best manner in which to meet the heavier traffic demands on the strength and durability of British roads, and that possibly it will be found that properly constructed concrete roads in some cases may meet the requirements.

[A list of machinery dealers in the Birmingham district may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, its district, or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 94003.]

CROP CONDITIONS IN SOUTH AFRICA.

[Consul John P. Bray, Johannesburg, Transvaal, Oct. 9.]

Although the wheat crop in the Transvaal is reported, in some instances, to have been slightly damaged by rust and birds, it is, on the whole, in excellent condition. In the central districts, where the bulk of the Province's crop is grown, the outlook is said to be favorable. In the Potchefstroom district the crop is estimated by the Agricultural Department at 4 per cent above normal and in the Rustenberg district (the largest producing area of this group) at 8 per cent above normal, while in the Pretoria, Krugersdorp, and Heidelberg districts the crop is estimated to be from 13 to 14 per cent better than the ordinary favorable crop. The eastern high veldt and the low veldt districts are also reported to have crops above normal, the average for the whole Province being 8 per cent above normal.

A Department of Agriculture bulletin states that, favorable as are the reports from the Transvaal Province, those emanating from the Orange Free State are even more so, and that in all but one of the wheat districts the crop is above normal. The average for the northeastern districts is estimated as high as 13 per cent above normal, and that of the Bethlehem district as high as 21 per cent above normal. The southeastern districts are also reported to have very good crops which are estimated at 8 per cent above normal. The average for the whole Orange Free State Province is therefore given as 11½ per cent above normal.

The Agricultural Department's forecasts for oats in the Transvaal show small variations, the average being about 1 per cent above normal for the whole Province. However, this is most satisfactory, especially when it is recalled that this time last year the crop was 36 per cent below normal. The season's crop in the Orange Free State is also said to be very good thus far, the average for the whole Province being 3 per cent above normal.

In the Transvaal and Orange Free State, unlike the conditions at this date last year when it was 47 per cent below normal in these Provinces, the barley crop is said to be about normal.

PACKING OF EXPLOSIVES IN STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

[Consul Harry Campbell, detailed as vice consul, Singapore, Oct. 12.]

Various regulations have been established for the Straits Settlements governing the use, storage, sale, packing, and transportation of explosives. They are divided into six classes—Gunpowder, nitrate mixture, nitrocompound, chlorate mixture, fulminate, and ammunition.

With two exceptions, persons are prohibited from storing or having any explosive in their possession or under their control unless authorized by license. The exceptions are: (1) Any explosive not exceeding 1,000 safety cartridges for use with any gun, rifle, or pistol held under license may be stored in private premises for private use but not for trade purposes without license; and (2) explosives may be conveyed without license from place to place in accordance with the provisions of the regulations.

Lettering on Floating Magazines.

Every hulk or floating magazine which is licensed must be painted externally vermilion, and have the word "explosives" legibly painted on both sides in large letters of white paint at least 2 feet high. Storage places other than hulk or floating magazines are required to have displayed in some conspicuous place a board bearing the words: "Licensed to store explosives."

If it does not exceed 5 pounds, gunpowder may be contained in a single outer package, but if it exceeds 5 pounds it must be contained in a double package. The amount to be packed in any one outer or inner package shall not exceed 100 pounds, and where gunpowder and propellant are packed together, the amount shall not exceed 50 pounds in any one outer package, or 25 pounds in any one inner package.

Explosives of the second class (nitrate mixture) may be contained in a substantial case, bag, or canister if they do not exceed 5 pounds; when they exceed that weight, the explosives must be contained in a double package. No iron or steel may be used in the construction of any package unless it is covered with such material as tin or zinc. All packages must be marked "explosive," with the name of the explosive, followed by the words "nitrate mixture," and the name and address of the owner or sender.

Regulations for explosives of the second class also apply to those of the third class (nitro compounds). The inner packages of class 3 are not to contain more than 10 pounds of explosives.

Explosives of the fourth class (chlorate mixture) if not exceeding 5 pounds must be contained in a substantial case, bag, canister, or other similar receptacle. When the amount exceeds 5 pounds it must be in a double package. The inner package can not contain more than 10 pounds of the explosives, and the amount in any one outer package is not to exceed 50 pounds. Both the inner and outer packages must be thoroughly waterproof.

Inspector of Explosives May Direct.

Explosives of the fifth class (fulminate) which are of such a character that they can not be packed mixed with water, or if danger would arise from such mode of packing, must be packed in such a manner as shall be specially directed by the inspector of explosives.

Any other explosives of the fulminate class must be packed in bags or coverings of calico, canvas, or other material permeable to water, each containing not more than 25 pounds of fulminate, and so made and closed as to prevent any explosive from escaping. These bags are to be packed in a case containing sufficient water to insure the explosive being kept constantly wet, and the case must be packed in an outer case containing enough water to constantly surround the inner one. The amount of explosive in any one outer case shall not exceed 200 pounds except by special consent.

Explosives of the sixth class (ammunition) must be packed in a box, barrel, or case of wood, metal, or other solid material, of such strength or construction that it will not be broken or accidentally opened. Pin-fire cartridges for pistols must be so packed that the bases lie alternately in opposite directions, and the bases and pins are to be so fitted into perforations in millboard or other suitable material as to prevent the firing of any one of the cartridges by an explosion in any other of the cartridges. When the number of such cartridges exceeds 50, they are to be packed in an inner and outer package, the inner package containing not more than 50. Besides the usual marking of "explosive" there must be affixed to each outer package the words "pin-fire cartridges" in conspicuous letters.

Directions for Packing Detonators.

In the case of detonators, the detonators and the spaces between them and between the sides of the inner package and the detonators must all be filled, as far as practicable, with fine sawdust or other similar material, and a layer of cotton wool or other soft elastic material must be placed between both ends of all the detonators and the interior of the inner package in which they are placed, in such manner that both ends of the detonators will rest upon the cotton wool. Every inner package, if of metal, must be lined throughout with paper or other soft material. When more than 1,000 detonators are packed for conveyance all the inner packages must be placed inside a substantial case of wood or metal in such manner as to leave a clear space of not less than 3 inches between the interior and the outer package, notwithstanding that such clear space may, if preferred, be filled with sawdust, straw, or other similar material, or may contain a light framework or battens of wood to keep the case in position in the outer package. As many as 3,000 electric detonators may be contained in an outer package, or if the outer package is provided with handles, the number may be increased to 5,000. Cases containing percussion caps or safety fuse for blasting must have the words "percussion caps" or "safety fuse for blasting," with the name and address of the owner or sender on the outside of the package.

The regulations prohibit a person from forwarding to any warehouseman or carrier a consignment of explosives unless he has given notice to such warehouseman or carrier beforehand, stating the name and quantity of the explosives to be conveyed, and the name and address of the proposed consignee. Explosives can not be sent for carriage upon any railway unless an officer in charge of the railway station is given previous notice in writing. The railway administration may refuse to receive any package when it suspects that it contains any explosive packed or sent contrary to these regulations.

FIRST PUBLIC HIGHWAY FROM GUAYAQUIL.

[Consul General Frederic W. Goding, Guayaquil, Ecuador, Oct. 29.]

At its recent session the Ecuadorian Congress enacted a law providing for a public highway leading from the city of Guayaquil toward the interior, which will be the first ever constructed in the lowlands of the Republic. The road will extend from Guayaquil northward for about 20 miles to the town of Pascuales on the Daule River.

The funds provided include a monthly tax of 2 sucres (\$0.97 at normal exchange) on each public taxicab and 4 sucres (\$1.95) on each private automobile; 3 per cent ad valorem on each automobile imported into and to be used in Guayaquil; 2 per cent ad valorem for each carriage imported for Guayaquil; 50 sucres (\$24.34) assessment on each lineal kilometer (0.62 mile) of property through which the road passes; and such sums of money as the municipality of Guayaquil may appropriate from its own funds.

After the construction of the road shall have been completed, for its upkeep an annual tax of 5 sucres (\$2.43) for each kilometer of road will be imposed on the adjoining property; a monthly tax of 1 sucre and 2 sucres (\$0.48 and \$0.97) on the taxicabs and private automobiles, respectively, used in Guayaquil; and the import duties on automobiles and carriages mentioned above, which are to be collected by the municipality of Guayaquil, which is also authorized to make the necessary expropriations of land, to be paid for by the funds collected.

The municipality of Guayaquil is placed in charge of the construction of the highway, which may be done administratively or by contract. Doubtless this is the beginning of a plan to construct public highways in the Ecuadorian lowlands, where they are greatly needed, the credit for which is due to the advent of the automobile.

ESTIMATE OF THE ITALIAN 1917 RICE CROP.

[Consul F. T. F. Dumont, Florence, Oct. 29.]

According to the *Statistica Agraria* for September, 1917, the yield of rice in all Italy for 1917 is estimated at 564,444 tons of 2,000 pounds each as compared with 573,371 tons in 1916, and 551,220 tons as the average crop of the 8 years 1909 to 1916.

The estimated yield in Tuscany and Emilia is 24,685 short tons as compared with 27,660 tons in 1916, and an 8-year average of 33,831 tons. Scarcity of labor had much to do with this.

Market Desired for Hardwood Ties.

An American consular officer in Mexico has transmitted the name of a person in his district who desires to sell 500,000 hardwood railway ties. The native name of the wood is *chijol* (*Pescidia erythrina*). The name of the inquirer can be obtained at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district or cooperative offices by referring to file No. 93034.

AMERICAN ADVERTISING IN CHINA.

[Vice Consul Walter A. Adams, Shanghai.]

Advertising in China presents problems which are perhaps unknown to the manufacturer or exporter who in the United States has had at his command thoroughly equipped advertising agencies organized to outline and presecute complete publicity campaigns. It has been estimated that approximately 40,000,000 Chinese, out of a total of about 400,000,000, are able to read their own language. Of these literate Chinese, about 260,000 can read the English language. Among this number are 1,500 who have studied in American schools, colleges, and universities, and returned to China to reside. These former American students naturally have a share in the shaping of Chinese commercial activity.

Standard at Shanghai Among Highest.

In all China there are about 440 newspapers, and of these only about 50 have good circulations. The average is not more than 3,000 copies per issue. One Chinese newspaper in Shanghai has a daily circulation of about 30,000, and claims that it is larger than that of any other paper in China. In this connection it may be stated that the standard of literacy among the Chinese of Shanghai and environs is considered higher than in any other part of the country.

A factor which is practically nonexistent in the United States should be given weight in the consideration of the advertising value of Chinese newspapers. That factor is the Chinese custom of selling papers after having read them. A single copy sometimes changes hands as many as ten times. The price becomes smaller as the paper grows older. Thus a Chinese paper with a stated circulation of 3,000 copies will ordinarily reach a much larger number of readers than would a newspaper with a similar circulation in the United States.

An advertising agency in Shanghai which specializes in placing copy in the native press states that an advertisement measuring four columns wide and nine inches deep, equivalent to about a quarter of a page in an American paper, would cost from \$5 to \$18 United States currency for daily insertion throughout the period of one month. Usually it costs no more to run the advertisement daily than to insert it once each week. To the foregoing cost should be added a fee of about \$3 per month which the advertising agency would charge for its services, a small charge for the translation of the English text into Chinese, and the cost of electro or stereotype plates.

Careful Selection of Translators.

The translation of English copy into Chinese is a task of the highest importance and should not be intrusted to one who is not thoroughly familiar with the native idioms in all their shades of meaning. Only too often names of firms and brands are selected by unimaginative translators to reproduce the sound of the foreign name in Chinese as nearly as possible, regardless of its meaning to the Chinese. An instance of a happy translation of a firm name was that of an American banking institution in China. The officials of the bank desired a name for it to be engraved upon a plate on the

front of the building. They employed an intelligent Chinese to do the work, and after considerable study the characters were selected and duly engraved upon the plate. Translated literally, they read: "The Bank of the Flowery Flag." Americans are known among the Chinese as the "flowery-flag people." Had the often-used method of selecting a Chinese name been followed, meaningless Chinese characters would probably have been selected for their similarity in sound to the English name of the bank and would have conveyed no idea of the national identity of the bank to the Chinese mind.

Too much can not be said of the importance of posters in reaching the great nine-tenths of the people. The printed sheet may be meaningless to the illiterate masses, but an attractive picture poster illustrating the use of the product sought to be sold is full of significance. One of the chief services of such a poster is its visualization of a trade-mark or "chop." China has no trade-mark law, but every Chinese has a wholesome veneration for a chop which he has associated with some reliable product. Once a chop has been firmly established here, it is an extremely valuable asset. Chinese coolies, unable to read, often have been seen to purchase a package of cigarettes, go to a poster on a near-by wall, and carefully compare the design on the package with the design on the advertisement which is known to be genuine.

Influence of Prominent Publications.

There are between 20 and 30 foreign newspapers and magazines printed in the English and French languages in China. Some of these are sound business or journalistic enterprises and have a pronounced influence. In addition to the American, British, and French publications, there have been German papers, but many of these have ceased publication since the beginning of the war. The Germans were extensive advertisers in China, in both the foreign and native press, before their activities were restricted, and their policy in this respect no doubt contributed materially to their success in building up a huge trade with China in a comparatively short period.

Some of the German firms in China continue their advertising in the native press and also a few others over which they exerted an influence. Inasmuch as German firms in China had been cut off from supplies of German products since the beginning of 1915, and as many of them were without stocks, their advertising apparently was for future effect. This policy of German firms in China with reference to keeping alive their "chops" may be of possible interest to those American manufacturers and exporters who are not inclined to incur the expense of advertising in China during periods of temporary depression or perhaps inflation to the point of receiving orders which can not be filled.

The question of the value of advertising in the foreign press of China, in the effort to reach Chinese buyers, will probably arise in the minds of Americans. In the consideration of that question it will be of interest to note that there are approximately 165,000 foreigners in China, according to figures published by the Chinese Maritime Customs Authorities, and the greater part of them are Russians and Japanese. Americans in China now number about 6,000, of whom about 3,500 are missionaries and Y. M. C. A. workers, scattered over almost the entire country.

Chinese Readers of Foreign Press.

It may safely be stated that the foreign press of China has a greater circulation among the 260,000 Chinese who speak and read English than among the foreign population of China, and these Chinese readers form an influential element among the people. The church and organization workers scattered throughout China also are in position to exert an appreciable influence. It will therefore be seen that advertising in the foreign press may well be considered part of a thorough publicity campaign. During recent years American enterprise has built up an influential press here, and from all viewpoints it may be said to compare favorably with that of any other foreign nation.

Under the existing circumstances of keen international competition in China, the selection of local representatives to handle American advertising and American products should receive the greatest care. It has been alleged that, in some instances, agencies for products of one nationality have been secured by agents interested in pushing similar products of other nations and the goods have been allowed to remain in the background, thus practically eliminating from the market the products covered by such agencies.

[Lists of American publications and advertising agencies in China may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 94944. Articles on advertising in China were published in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for May 11 and June 6, 1916.]

"COAL SAVERS" IN GREAT BRITAIN.

[Consul General Robert P. Skinner, London, Nov. 7.]

Various preparations are extensively advertised in this country at present which are presumed to contribute considerably to the heating power of coal when applied in the prescribed doses.

The Director of Fuel Research, in answer to an inquiry as to the value of these preparations, states that these proprietary substances have been in the market a long time, but that there does not appear to be any genuine scientific evidence in support of the claims of their manufacturers. He concludes: "The nature of the substances makes it highly improbable that they have any effect whatsoever on the combustion of coal or other fuels when they are used in the quantities prescribed."

OFFICES OF THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE.**DISTRICT OFFICES.**

NEW YORK: 734 Customhouse.
BOSTON: 1801 Customhouse.
CHICAGO: 504 Federal Building.
ST. LOUIS: 402 Third National Bank Building.
NEW ORLEANS: 1020 Hibernia Bank Building.
SAN FRANCISCO: 867 Customhouse.
SEATTLE: 848 Henry Building.

COOPERATIVE OFFICES.

CLEVELAND: Chamber of Commerce.
CINCINNATI: Chamber of Commerce.
CINCINNATI: General Freight Agent, Southern Railway, 96 Ingalls Building.
LOS ANGELES: Chamber of Commerce.
PHILADELPHIA: Chamber of Commerce.
CHATTANOOGA: South American Agent, Southern Railway System.
DAYTON: Greater Dayton Association.
PORTLAND, OREG.: Chamber of Commerce.

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the Bureau and its district and cooperative offices. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and state opportunity number. The Bureau does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases. Symbols: * Reported by American consular officers; † Reported by commercial attachés and commercial agents; ‡ Direct inquiries received by the Bureau.

In considering the following "opportunities" special regard should be had to the laws and regulations governing export licenses and trading with the enemy.

Agricultural implements-----	25976	Orthopedical articles-----	25968
Beer-----	25975	Paper-----	25976
Belt and fire hose-----	25968	Piece goods-----	25973
Canned goods-----	25969	Splicing-----	25977
Envelopes-----	25971	Rubber goods-----	25968
Hardware-----	25970	Sheet iron-----	25972
Heels, rubber-----	25978	Tires-----	25976
Lathes-----	25968	Typewriter plates-----	25976
Oil-----	25976	Wax-----	25974

25968.*—A firm in Italy desires to purchase india-rubber articles, such as tubes, etc.; rubber sheets for hospitals, maroon color preferred; leather, camel's-hair, and hemp belts; hemp woven fire hose; orthopedical articles and detached parts of artificial limbs; and lathes for working the metal parts of artificial limbs. Payment will be made against shipping documents through any bank at destination. Correspondence should be in French or Italian.

25969.*—A company in England desires to buy or secure an agency for the sale of pears, apricots, peaches, and sockeye salmon in cans. Cash will be paid. Reference.

25970.*—A firm in India is in the market for hardware. Payment will be made by cash against documents or confirmed bank credit opened in New York. Goods should be well packed. Correspondence may be in English. Reference.

25971.*—A man in Switzerland desires to purchase or secure an agency for the sale of all kinds of envelopes. Goods are desired to be shipped via French port. Correspondence may be in English. References.

25972.*—An agency is desired by a firm in Norway for the sale of galvanized sheet iron and black sheet iron. Quotations should be made f. o. b. New York. Payment will be made by cash against documents. Correspondence may be in English. References.

25973.*—A firm in India wishes to buy woolen piece goods. Payment will be made by cash against documents or confirmed bank credits opened in New York. Goods should be well packed. Correspondence may be in English. Reference.

25974.*—A firm in England desires to purchase black saturating and finishing waxes for electric cables, in 1 to 5 ton lots. Later on an agency proposition will be considered. References.

25975.*—A company in Ceylon desires to buy light lager beer of best quality in cases of 4 dozen quarts or 6 dozen pints. The initial shipment will be 750 cases, consisting of 500 quarts and 250 pints. If satisfactory, annual purchases of from 6,000 to 8,000 cases will be made. If required, payment will be made by telegraph against ship's bill of lading; otherwise, usual credit terms to suit seller. Correspondence may be in English. References.

25976.*—An agency is desired by a firm in Switzerland for the sale of machine oil, plates for typewriters, farming implements, paper, tires, etc. Correspondence may be in English. References.

25977.*—A man in Italy is in the market for copper or brass pipes 1 to 5 millimeters thick, round or elliptical section, variable lengths averaging 1 meter. Estimate of freight rate should be included in quotations. Cash will be paid. Correspondence should be in Italian. Reference.

25978.*—An agency on a commission basis is desired by a firm in India for the sale of rubber heels. Quotations should be made f. o. b. shipping port. Payment will be made by cash against documents. Correspondence may be in English. Reference.

DEC 6 - 1917

COMMERCE REPORTS



DAILY CONSULAR AND TRADE REPORTS
ISSUED DAILY BY THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE



For sale by the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C., at \$2.50 per year

No. 283 Washington, D. C., Tuesday, December 4 1917

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REMOVAL OF BRITISH RESTRICTIONS ON MAHOGANY.

Consul General Skinner reports from London that the Controller of Timber Supplies announces the withdrawal, until further notice, of the restriction on sales of mahogany of all kinds. Notice was given in **COMMERCE REPORTS** for September 6 that the Board of Trade had taken possession of all stocks of mahogany exceeding 5,000 feet.

EXPORTATION OF SUGAR AND POULTRY FROM CANADA.

Additional regulations for the enforcement of the recent embargo on food products [see **COMMERCE REPORTS** for Nov. 24 and 27] are published in Customs Memorandum No. 2143B, November 28. The new rules are as follows:

(a) Except as to sugar sent by parcel post for military or naval forces overseas, the export of sugar to all destinations, and regardless of value, is prohibited unless licensed on the approval of the Food Controller.

(b) The export of live poultry to the United States may be licensed by the indorsement of the customs collector at the point of exit on the usual shippers' export entry.

Regulation (a) makes an exception in the case of sugar to the general provision that shipments valued at less than \$100 may go forward under indorsement by the customs collector. Poultry is one of the items on the embargo list, and has been hitherto subject to the requirement that licenses for exportation shall be secured from the Minister of Customs. Under regulation (b) delay in applying for licenses from this source will be avoided and the additional embargo requirements will not prove burdensome.

INCREASED AMERICAN EXPORTS FOR OCTOBER.

American exports made a great gain in October, reaching a total value of \$542,000,000. This is an increase of \$86,000,000 over September, according to a statement made public by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce. The exports for the 10 months ended with October of this year amounted to \$5,149,000,000, as against \$4,443,000,000 for the corresponding period last year.

October imports are placed at \$221,000,000, a falling off of \$15,000,000 compared with September. For the 10-month period ended with October the imports into the United States were valued at \$2,504,000,000, as compared with \$2,010,000,000 for the first 10 months of 1916. Seventy-six per cent of the October imports entered free of duty.

Gold imports in October amounted to only \$4,000,000, while exports totaled \$11,000,000. For the 10 months ended with October gold imports amounted to \$532,000,000, against \$480,000,000 for a similar period in 1916. Exports of gold, on the other hand, were valued at \$360,000,000, as compared with \$101,000,000 for the first 10 months of 1916.

Silver imports amounted to \$5,000,000 in October and to \$38,000,000 for the 10 months ended with that month, while the exports of silver were valued at \$7,000,000 for the single month and at \$69,000,000 for the 10-month period.

URUGUAYAN CONGRESS CARRIES FORWARD BUDGET.

[Consul William Dawson, Montevideo, Oct. 9.]

By a law of October 1, 1917, the Uruguayan budget of expenditure voted for the fiscal year 1916-17 is made to apply to the fiscal year 1917-18, including the various laws by which the original budget has from time to time been modified.

The adoption of the 1916-17 budget law for the present fiscal year was recommended by the Executive Power in a message which called attention to the impossibility of calculating receipts and particularly those from the principal source of revenue, namely, the customs, owing to the general situation. The message refers to the deficit recently reported for the fiscal year 1916-17, and considers a deficit probable during the present financial year.

(With respect to the 1916-17 deficit, reference is made to this office's report of Sept. 25, entitled "Decreased receipts cause deficit in Uruguay" [published in COMMERCE REPORTS for Nov. 12, 1917].)

ESTIMATE OF THE ITALIAN 1917 GRAPE CROP.

[Consul F. T. F. Dumont, Florence, Oct. 29.]

According to the *Statistica Agraria* for September the yield of grapes in all Italy for 1917 is 8,031,596 tons of 2,000 pounds each, as compared with a yield of 6,593,927 tons in 1916, and an 8-year average of 7,063,600 tons.

The estimated yield in Tuscany and Emilia is 1,779,950 short tons, as compared with a yield of 1,414,637 tons in 1916, and an 8-year average of 1,483,774 tons. The estimated crop in Tuscany is 50 per cent above the 8-year average, and 70 per cent above 1916.

THE LUMBERING OUTLOOK IN NEW BRUNSWICK.

[Consul E. Verne Richardson, Moncton, New Brunswick, Canada, Nov. 22.]

Present indications point to a greatly reduced quantity of timber felled in New Brunswick during the coming winter as compared with the ordinary average aggregate. Two reasons are to be assigned for the anticipated shortage in the 1917-18 cut—scarcity of labor and transportation difficulties.

The leading operators of the Province are to-day forecasting an extraordinarily small total cut, probably not more than 50 per cent of that of recent previous years.

The effect of the existing transportation problem on the lumbering industry is one easily understood. Recent estimates of the lumber cut and awaiting shipment at points in New Brunswick and the adjacent counties of Nova Scotia place the total at 300,000,000 feet. Assuming that these figures somewhat exaggerate, it is still manifest that there is little to encourage operations on any extensive scale in the near future. That all this lumber is waiting transportation is due to shortage of railway cars and vessels for the coastwise trade and the restrictions now in force against over-sea shipments. Were stocks of lumber now on hand less and prospects for moving them brighter, greater efforts would be made to secure labor for the lumber camps, for current market prices are high both in Canada's upper Provinces and in the United States. One need only recall that the lumber industry of New Brunswick represents an annual distribution of about \$15,000,000 among those directly and indirectly concerned with it to understand how seriously any interference with the winter's operations in the woods affects the general economic life of the Province.

BRITISH STANDARDIZED SUITINGS FOR CIVILIAN WEAR.

[Consul Franklin D. Hale, Huddersfield, Nov. 9.]

Charles Sykes, Director of Government Wool Textile Production, recently made an official statement to the Board of Control regarding the Government scheme for standard suitings for civilian wear. He said there would be at first one type of cloth made available at a fixed price, but that it would be possible to have a reasonably large variety of patterns in that one grade. It was thought that such cloths could be procured at 6s. (\$1.46) per yard, so that the price of a man's suit of standard cloth would be about £2 10s. (\$12.17); and that provision could be made for a standard shoddy for boys' clothing, so that the cost per suit would be for young boys £1 2s. 6d. (\$5.47) and up to £1 10s. (\$7.30) and £2 (\$9.73) for youths. He hoped also to arrange for standard flannel by requesting manufacturers to conform to a standard specification, the intention being to have the flannel stamped every few yards with the retail price.

It is thought in the tailoring trade that an important result of the scheme will be the utilization of a better quality of material than can now be obtained in ready-mades. At the present time ready-made suits can be bought for less than the £2 10s. mentioned above, but the cloth is of poor quality and the suits are made by the lowest class of labor.

TRADE OF UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA FOR EIGHT MONTHS.

[Consul General George H. Murphy, Cape Town.]

The foreign trade of the Union of South Africa from January 1 to August 31 was as follows: Imports, \$119,757,000 in 1917 and \$132,479,000 in 1916, a decrease in the 1917 period of \$12,722,000; exports, \$85,536,000 in 1917 and \$68,754,000 in 1916, an increase in the 1917 period of \$16,782,000.

The principle articles imported and exported, with their value, were:

Articles.	Jan.-Aug., 1916.	Jan.-Aug., 1917.	Articles.	Jan.-Aug., 1916.	Jan.-Aug., 1917.
IMPORTS.			IMPORTS—continued.		
Apparel and slops.....	\$9,179,000	\$7,572,000	Vehicles.....	\$3,873,000	\$3,622,000
Arms and ammunition.....	1,173,000	820,000	Wood and timber.....	3,010,000	2,654,000
Cotton manufactures.....	16,715,000	17,181,000	Woolen manufactures.....	3,132,000	3,227,000
Drugs and chemicals.....	3,749,000	3,186,000	EXPORTS.		
Food and drink.....	20,299,000	16,356,000	Bark.....	929,000	684,000
Furniture.....	1,706,000	1,021,000	Blasting compounds.....	1,697,000	1,715,000
Haberdashery and millinery.....	4,070,000	2,943,000	Coal.....	974,000	777,000
Hardware and cutlery.....	3,800,000	3,160,000	Diamonds.....	11,788,000	18,811,000
Hats and caps.....	1,138,000	698,000	Feathers, ostrich.....	1,853,000	168,294
Implements and tools.....	1,723,000	1,539,000	Hair, Angora.....	2,955,000	1,193,000
Iron and steel manufactures (except machinery).....	3,904,000	3,458,000	Hides, ox and cow.....	2,236,000	2,550,000
Leather and leather goods.....	5,472,000	3,458,000	Skins:.....		
Machinery.....	6,675,000	5,880,000	Goat.....	1,216,000	1,348,000
Oils.....	3,514,000	4,345,000	Sheep.....	2,855,000	3,869,000
Stationery and books.....	2,620,000	2,278,000	Wool.....	20,005,000	26,103,000

Included under the imports of leather and leather goods are boots and shoes, which decreased from \$4,855,000 for the 1916 period to \$2,824,000 for the 1917 period. Under vehicles the imports of motor cars decreased from \$2,557,000 to \$2,128,000.

The value of the imports and exports through the principal ports of the Union of South Africa during the first eight months of 1917, as compared with the like period of 1916, was as follows:

Port.	Jan.-Aug., 1916.	Jan.-Aug., 1917.	Port.	Jan.-Aug., 1916.	Jan.-Aug., 1917.
IMPORTS.			EXPORTS—continued.		
Cape Town.....	\$30,305,000	\$26,522,000	Port Elizabeth.....	\$11,658,000	\$11,636,000
Port Elizabeth.....	29,963,000	23,998,000	East London.....	10,561,000	10,818,000
East London.....	11,580,000	9,314,000	Durban.....	12,140,000	19,981,000
Durban.....	44,690,000	38,203,000	Delagoa Bay.....	3,004,000	3,170,000
Delagoa Bay.....	6,640,000	9,047,000	Mossel Bay.....	974,000	405,000
Mossel Bay.....	559,000	565,000	Port Nolloth.....	1,710,000	1,315,000
Port Nolloth.....	221,000	50,000	Simonstown.....		3,000
Simonstown.....	44,000	32,000	Knysna.....		
Knysna.....	62,000	37,000	Other ports.....	274,000	855,000
Other Ports.....	153,000	228,000	To North and South Rhodesia.....	1,908,000	1,889,000
From North and South Rhodesia.....	789,000	1,106,000	Total South African produce.....	60,880,000	76,979,000
Total merchandise.....	125,006,000	105,111,000	Imported goods re-exported:		
Articles for South African Government.....	5,503,000	4,870,000	Through parcel post.....	166,000	268,000
Specie.....	1,970,000	5,776,000	In bond and duty paid to North and South Rhodesia.....	3,040,000	2,785,000
Total imports.....	132,479,000	119,757,000	Oversea.....	4,036,000	5,065,000
EXPORTS.			Specie.....	632,000	439,000
Cape Town:			Total exports.....	68,754,000	85,536,000
Diamonds.....	11,787,000	18,802,000			
Other South African Products.....	6,765,000	8,325,000			

The export statistics for raw gold will not be published until after the close of the war, and therefore this important item is not included in the above figures.

DUNDEE JUTE-TRADE REPORT.

[Vice Consul E. R. Pottle, Dundee, Scotland, Nov. 13.]

The Dundee jute situation is thus reviewed in a local trade publication:

Common hessian weft has reached the top price of \$1.50 for 8-pound, and light hessian has reached the like high place at 15½-cent basis for 8-ounce unmade up for bags.

The number of nonquoters is daily increasing. This is scarcely to be wondered at, for the uncertainty in regard to the receipt of jute in time to keep all the wheels going is becoming more and more intense. The report that there are ships on the way and one loading may be quite correct; but the leading boat, instead of having 45,000 bales, is bearing only about 25,000, the rest of the freight space being otherwise taken up. It is understood that there are only a few steamers which have left India in which freight has been allocated to spinners who had permits. * * *

There are firms which have had advices of the shipment of all they require, while others will to a certainty have their working hours reduced unless there is something en route which has not yet been made known. The position is not reassuring, but it is to be hoped that it will turn out better than anticipated. That spinners should, under the circumstances, act with great caution is not surprising, but neither is it surprising that this policy of caution on their part should make yarns an even stronger market than before.

Jute remains unchanged, except for some of the lower qualities, such as Heart Kalis, Mangos, Lightnings, Rejections, etc. In recent transactions first marks were quoted \$97.33 to \$111.93 c. i. f., January-March, depending upon marks; Dalsee, \$94.89 upward. Higher qualities brought good prices.

Naturally the yarn branch was particularly strong, the quotation for 8-pound hessian cops finishing at \$1.52 after \$1.50 being done, and spools at \$1.56, though less would have been possible; but, on the other hand, there were spinners demanding \$1.58 for 8-pound cops. Eight-pound sacking chains, 24-pound weft, and 24-pound Dutch were not to be had. One-lea chains were sold at \$362.55 and 200-pound rove at \$267.66. Licenses for the export of yarns from France are not being or to be granted. This was announced to-day. Light sizes will be greatly missed.

The chief inquiry for hessian was in light weights for the United States and 8 and 10 ounce for home trade. It was not quite expected that we should hear of Calcuttas, 10-ounce 40-inch being sold in London at \$18.73.

LIGHTHOUSE EMPLOYEES COMMENDED.

Several employees of the United States Lighthouse Service have been commended by Acting Secretary of Commerce Sweet for bravery shown in preventing the loss of life and property. This action by the department will be noted on the records and made a part of the official history of the persons who participated in the services rendered. Those who received commendation are:

Harold A. Mellgren, commanding tender *Camellia*, and the other officers and crew of the tender, for assistance rendered by the *Camellia* on October 9, 1917, while lying at Fort San Jacinto Lighthouse Depot wharf, Galveston, Tex., in putting out a fire which broke out at the quarantine station across the harbor.

Herbert R. Brownley, commanding tender *Juniper*, and the other officers and crew of the tender, for service rendered by the *Juniper* on October 12, 1917, in assisting the schooner *Annie Edwards* from a reef near Muddy Blue Beacon, Cape Channel, N. C., to a safe anchorage.

Louis Amundsen, watchman of the sixteenth lighthouse district, and Mark McDonough, seaman of the tender *Kukui*, for the rescue on October 11, 1917, of the son of the foreman, M. Harris, who had fallen into deep water at the lighthouse dock at Ketchikan, Alaska.

P. L. Cosgrove, jr., commanding tender *Ivy*, and the other officers and crew, for assistance rendered on November 4, 1917, in rescuing four men on a raft who were adrift from the wrecked schooner *Brazos*, at North Key Shoal, Fla.

Frauk A. Davis, keeper of Duxbury Pier Light Station, Mass., for assistance rendered on November 3, 1917, to a party of three persons in the disabled power boat *Plymouth*.

ARGENTINE MARKET FOR MOTOR VEHICLES.

A report on the "Argentine Market for Motor Vehicles" has been published by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce as Miscellaneous Series No. 62. It was prepared by David Beecroft as an appendix to the report of the party that was sent to Argentina by the Latin American Return Visit Committee. It is issued by the Bureau because it deals with a subject of great interest to American manufacturers who are concerned with foreign trade.

The writer finds that Argentina offers greater possibilities than any other country in South America as a market for automotive vehicles. Previous to 1911, cars which were imported into Argentina came largely from Europe. The numbers imported during the last six years were: 1911, 2,461; 1912, 4,281; 1913, 5,115; 1914, 2,185; 1915, 1,847; 1916, 5,929. The importation of European automobiles reached its zenith in 1911, the year of the crisis. Since that time sales of the expensive European car have fallen, and to-day there are unsold cars that dealers have been carrying for years.

For 10 or 15 years previous to the war automobiles in Argentina were confined chiefly to the cities, such as Buenos Aires, Rosario, Bahia Blanca, Mendoza, Cordoba, La Plata, Santa Fe, and Tucuman. The European cars sold almost exclusively in the cities. The American car to-day is selling almost exclusively in the country. European cars were largely of the expensive types in all the best makes. They were owned by the wealthy business men as well as the wealthy estancieros (farmers), who spent much of their time in the cities. The country districts, being practically without improved roads, were not suitable for such automobiles. In fact, it was very rare that a resident of Buenos Aires would attempt to drive even to Rosario, a distance of 175 miles. In dry weather such a drive might be possible, but it would be very unpleasant because of the trail-like roads and the clouds of dust. In wet weather the trip is impossible, for the heavy cars could not make any progress over the black-soil roads. With few exceptions, the expensive European automobile was a city vehicle for the wealthy classes.

Advent of the American Car.

The advent of the American car in quantities introduced a new order of motor. The cheap American car did not appeal to the wealthy citizens. Selling activities formerly confined to the cities were transferred to the country. Pioneer American salesmen started across the pampas with their demonstrating automobiles. They proved that the American car is a practical machine for those endless level stretches of fertile farming land. They proved that the virgin trails over which 10 to 20 horses slowly pulled the huge farm cart with its 6 to 12 foot wheels could be traveled by the American car. The salesman demonstrated to the estanciero. At first he was opposed to the car. It was impractical in the country; it did not coincide with his conceptions of a car; and it would not last. A few demonstrations proved otherwise. The car was driven over every part of the estancia. It was sold to the estanciero and to his family as well. This selling campaign spread from one part of the pampas to another until it permeated every part of the cultivated country from the Atlantic to the Andes.

It is not surprising that with such an introduction during 1914 and 1915, 80 to 90 per cent of the American automobiles sold in Argentina to-day go to the wealthy farmers. These cars are receiving severe service. They are not given that delicate attention that the city car receives. Expert repairmen are scarce through the Argentine camp, and only crude repairs on the gasoline engine are made. Notwithstanding these handicaps the sales are increasing rapidly in spite of poor crop conditions and poor shipping facilities to Europe. There are to-day between 30,000 and 40,000 cars in Argentina.

The field of the motor truck in Argentina has not been developed to any extent and the truck movement is lagging far behind the car movement. There is a good selling field for trucks in the city of Buenos Aires and a limited selling field in some of the other cities such as Rosario, Bahia Blanca, Mendoza, and Cordoba. In the smaller cities street pavements are generally good, but wide streets are not so common as in Buenos Aires. There is a very big selling field with the estancieros.

Country Adapted to Use of Tractors.

No country is better adapted to the use of the motor farm tractor than Argentina with its long level stretches, its entire freedom from stones, and its sparse farm population. The farm tractor was introduced by American manufacturers on the pampas several years ago, but unfortunately its application was not the greatest success. Seven or eight years ago mechanical farm help competent to care for the farm tractor was not to be had. To-day the estanciero is not favorably disposed to the farm tractor, partly because of past experiences, but largely owing to the high price of gasoline, the cheapness of horses, and the poor crops of the last two years. The small American gasoline tractor capable of pulling three or four plows is on the Argentine market, but is not selling. In spite of the handicaps, the estanciero is looking more favorably on the small tractor. He sees in it a cultivating capacity that will make up to some extent for the shortage of labor.

In addition to outlining the possibilities of selling American cars and tractors, Miscellaneous Series No. 62 has practical pointers on methods of obtaining business and carrying it on successfully. Copies can be obtained at 5 cents from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C., or from any district or cooperative office of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

SWEDISH COMPANIES PURCHASE GERMAN MINES IN NORWAY.

[Vice Consul Arthur E. J. Reilly, Stockholm, Sweden, Oct. 12.]

The purchase from Germany of the Bjorkasens copper and sulphur pyrite mines at Balanger, near Narvik, Norway, has just been announced by the following group of Swedish firms: Centralgruppens Emissions AB., Mercator, Svenska Emissions AB., and the G. & L. Beijer Import & Export Co.

The production of the mines up to the present has been 60,000 tons, but it is hoped that this can be increased to between 150,000 and 200,000 tons. It is estimated that the mines contain 6,000,000 tons of accessible ore.

SERICULTURE IN CHOSEN.

[Vice Consul Raymond S. Curtice, Seoul, Sept. 21.]

Statistics have been prepared showing the extent to which sericulture has been developed in Chosen. The figures, which are compiled for 1916, give the number of households engaged in the industry, the number of sheets of silkworm eggs employed, and the production of cocoons. The totals of the spring, summer, and autumn rearings are also compared with the amounts for the years from 1912 to 1915. The figures for the five years are as follows:

Items.	1912	1913	1914	1915	1916
HOUSEHOLDS.					
Spring rearing.....number..	149,927	167,342	177,320	201,963	237,329
Summer rearing.....do....	8,186	10,821	18,560	18,539	16,771
Autumn rearing.....do....	9,376	11,293	18,776	22,005	38,728
SHEETS OF EGGS USED.					
Spring rearing.....number..	162,437	177,641	191,747	236,014	285,560
Summer rearing.....do....	6,313	11,049	20,267	20,621	16,546
Autumn rearing.....do....	10,641	15,021	26,038	26,732	45,714
Total.....	179,391	203,711	238,042	283,367	347,820
PRODUCTION OF COCOONS.					
Spring rearing.....bushels..	134,794	164,900	201,682	267,571	314,716
Summer rearing.....do....	6,943	10,153	17,817	16,256	14,541
Autumn rearing.....do....	8,996	13,727	17,014	19,062	38,979
Total.....	150,733	188,780	236,513	302,879	368,236

The quantities of cocoons in bushels produced in the various provinces in 1916 were: Keiki, 43,443; North Chusei, 12,134; South Chusei, 16,579; North Zenra, 10,865; South Zenra, 18,033; North Keisho, 71,726; South Keisho, 14,899; Kokai, 20,941; South Heian, 58,173; North Heian, 44,058; Kogen, 36,429; South Kankyo, 18,688; North Kankyo, 2,268; total, 368,236.

Sheets of silkworm eggs used in the various provinces in 1916 were: Keiki 36,511; North Chusei, 11,335; South Chusei, 18,702; North Zenra, 12,812; South Zenra, 16,876; North Keisho, 56,908; South Keisho, 16,917; Kokai, 23,699; South Heian, 49,589; North Heian, 47,279; Kogen, 36,844; South Kankyo, 18,563; North Kankyo, 1,785; total, 347,820.

NEW TYPE OF ENGLISH HARD PORCELAIN.

[Consul Robert S. S. Bergh, Stoke-on-Trent, Nov. 9.]

A new type of hard porcelain that possesses two important advantages has been evolved through researches undertaken by the Central School of Science and Technology in Stoke-on-Trent. The experimenters sought to produce a hard porcelain made wholly of British materials and to compound a body that would "pot" like ordinary earthenware. Specimens of ware exhibited show that both these objects have been accomplished.

The body of the new porcelain is as cheap as or cheaper than ordinary earthenware. The glaze (leadless) is about one-tenth the price of earthenware glaze. Particular satisfaction is expressed with

the glaze, which, when fired under suitable conditions, seems equal to anything yet marketed. The firing margin is very large. The oven which was built for experiments—an entirely new type—has proved a great success, and there is no reason why a development of this oven might not be used in the production of ordinary earthenware.

Little difficulty was anticipated with the fire clays, since it was known that there are many suitable fire clays in the country. The saggars used have stood remarkably well, in fact, not more than two or three saggars were lost in over 20 firings to temperatures ranging from Cone No. 10 to Cone No. 16.

Decoration with Ordinary Colors—Further Research.

The ware produced is capable of being successfully decorated with ordinary colors. People acquainted with hard porcelain know that this is not possible with some types. A great defect attaching to the Continental hard porcelain is the limitation of the colors that can be applied.

The firing of the new porcelain is the point that will be regarded most seriously by the manufacturer contemplating its production. The new ware can be fired in either “oxidizing” or “reducing” atmospheres, but the best results are obtained by the “reducing” method, which will involve important modifications in the firing practice now obtaining.

Many interesting problems in connection with the firing have arisen and much work has yet to be done. At present the experimenters are concentrating on faults in manufacture, so that the more probable sources of difficulties and losses will be known. The examination of these is necessarily slow, as it is not possible to fire oftener than once a week if they are to fire under manufacturing conditions.

BANK RATE OF EXCHANGE IN ECUADOR.

[Consul General Frederic W. Goding, Guayaquil, Oct. 30.]

A recent law promulgated in Ecuador attempts to regulate the bank rate of exchange as regards drafts to and from foreign countries. It provides for an advisory board to the President, presided over by the governor of Guayas and composed of delegates from the chambers of commerce of Guayaquil and Quito, the Agricultural Association, each of the banks of issue, and the National bank inspector. The recommendations made by this board may or may not be acted upon by the President, who alone is empowered to establish the legal rate of exchange; and any person selling at a higher rate is liable to prosecution, with a penalty of ten times the excess charged.

Export duties, including all surcharges, may be paid by checks or sight drafts on foreign markets where the goods are exported, taking as a basis the value of the pound sterling in the New York market. The drafts mentioned must be sold by the customs collectors at the prices paid for them.

The purchase of foreign drafts is at present very materially restricted, owing to the scarcity of funds in other countries; and it is generally believed that the present law will increase the difficulties.

TEA PLANTING IN SOUTHERN INDIA.

[Consul Lucien Memminger, Madras.]

The following article on tea planting in Southern India by Mr. Rudolph D. Anstead, planting expert of the Agricultural Department, Madras, and scientific officer to the United Planters' Association of Southern India, appears in a local publication:

The tea plant, *Camellia thea*, is indigenous in Assam, and it was discovered there about 1821. The cultivation of tea in India was recommended in 1834 by the governor general, and a commission was appointed to consider the matter. They recommended the Himalayas, Assam, and the hills of Southern India as suitable districts for its cultivation, but unfortunately overlooked the merits of the indigenous plant and advised the importation of China tea. This resulted in failure, and this variety of tea is now never grown but has been replaced by indigenous and hybrid teas of various kinds under a number of local names.

Tea planting is one of the most technical of the agricultural industries, for the object is to produce a constant succession of young shoots throughout the year; only the youngest leaves on each shoot are suitable for making tea, so that the methods applied are of a special character.

Tea Cultivation Profitable.

Since 1853 tea cultivation has been a profitable industry in India. The methods adopted have been continually improved, and that improvement is still going on. Pruning, plucking, cultivation, and manuring have been improved in a marked way, resulting in much larger crops of high-quality tea. The manufacture of the leaf has been entirely revolutionized: hand rolling and firing over charcoal fires have been abolished, and in the modern factory almost all the processes of tea making are automatically carried out by machinery.

The cultivation is concentrated in tracts where a heavy and well-distributed rainfall and a humid and equable climate permit of repeated flushings and plucking of the leaf. The soil must be rich and well drained, and of a light nature. In Southern India the hill tracts of the Wynnad, the Anamalais, the Nilgiris, and the elevated region over the Malabar coast, including the Native State of Travancore, at elevations of 3,000 to 6,000 feet, are found suitable. About 10 per cent of the total acreage under tea in India is situated in these districts, and a larger area is rapidly being planted. The acreages existing in 1913 may be put at: Nilgiris, 13,871 acres; Malabar, 9,774; Coimbatore, 2,633; and Travancore, 37,430. This is an increase of nearly 9 per cent over the acreage in 1912.

The plant is grown from seed sown in nurseries. The land to receive the plants is carefully prepared. The forest is cut down and burned, and tree stumps are removed as far as possible. Drains are made at regular intervals, and pits are dug in rows about 4 feet apart each way, and into these the young plants are put when they are 6 months old. The land is kept carefully clear of weeds, and frequently cultivated between the rows. When the young plants have been in the ground for six months to a year they are cut down to about 3 or 8 inches from the ground. Each plant then throws out from the stump three or four shoots, and a bush is formed. After this the bush is pruned back every two or three years. This pruning is a highly technical process. On it the success of the crop largely depends, not only as regards quantity but also quality. The bushes as they flush—that is, as the young shoots grow—are regularly plucked, and the young leaves and the tips of the young shoots taken off. The quality of the tea made depends on the number of leaves taken off with each shoot.

Preparation of Leaf—Gathering Methods.

The leaf is immediately brought into the factory and spread out in thin layers on trays of hessian in shady sheds at the top of the factory warmed by hot air. Here it "wITHERS" and becomes flaccid, and during the process an enzyme is developed that afterwards causes fermentation. When the withering is complete the leaf is rolled in a machine which rolls it to and fro on a table with a twisting motion. This presses out the juice onto the surface of the leaf. The rolled leaf is now allowed to ferment. It is placed for this purpose in layers a few inches thick in a moist, cool, darkened room. Fermentation

finished, the leaf is dried or "fired" as quickly as possible in machines that drive a current of hot air over it. After this it is only necessary to grade the tea by means of sieves and pack it in lead-lined wooden cases for shipment to the markets.

During the process described briefly above complicated chemical changes take place, and on the skill with which they are carried out depends the quality of the tea which is made. A great deal of experience and skill is needed to carry out these processes with success—especially to know when to stop the fermentation and fire the tea.

In most of the districts in Southern India it is usual to manure the tea gardens very lightly. Oil cakes and fish manure are largely used, and also artificial fertilizers supplying phosphorus and potash. The results of such manures have been found highly beneficial as regards both yield and quality. The yield per acre varies a good deal, not only with the methods of pruning, plucking, and cultivation employed, but also with the elevation and climate. At the highest elevations in the Nilgiris and the High Range of Travancore the frost reduces the yield, though compensation is obtained for this in respect to quality. At the lower elevations, as in the Wynnad, huge yields of lower-grade teas are aimed at and obtained. Thus in some places as much as 1,200 pounds of made tea per acre are secured, while in others the yield may be as low as 250 pounds an acre—the difference in quality between these extremes being great, with a corresponding difference in price, which makes both about equally profitable.

Yield—Diseases—Manufacture of Green Tea.

The total production of Indian tea in 1913 was 307,249,669 pounds. Of this the Madras Presidency contributed 7,089,045 pounds and Cochin and Travancore 15,155,635 pounds—a total for Southern India of 22,244,680 pounds, or 7.2 per cent of the production from all India. The average yields of made tea an acre in Southern India may be put at: Travancore, 514 pounds; Malabar, 453 pounds; Coimbatore, 452 pounds; Nilgiris, 393 pounds. The chief market for Indian tea is the United Kingdom, and India supplies more than half of the total quantity consumed each year in the United Kingdom. The average price per pound in London during 1913-14 of tea from the Nilgiris and Wynaad was 8.54d. [about 17 cents] and from Travancore 8.52d.

The tea plant in Southern India suffers from the attacks of a large number of pests and diseases, but none of them are of any very great importance or threaten its destruction, as is the case with coffee. Mosquito blight (damage done to the young leaves during the monsoon period by the puncture-like bites of a mosquito-like insect) is one of the most serious, but methods are being devised to combat this pest successfully.

The manufacture of tea described above relates to black tea, in which the materials in the leaf are changed by fermentation (the leaf becoming brown or black), the astringency is reduced, and the aroma altered in character. In the manufacture of green tea the leaf is prepared without any alteration taking place. It is neither withered nor fermented, but as soon as it comes in from the field the leaf is steamed under pressure for a few minutes in a rotating cylinder. The moisture is then removed by a centrifugal pump, and the leaf is lightly rolled, and finally dried as rapidly as possible.

"Faced" Green Teas.

Green tea is chiefly made in China, and there it is customary, in order to obtain a good green color in the final product, to "face" the tea by rubbing it in a hot pan with a little indigo and gypsum or some similar mixture, and in some places green soapstone is used for this purpose. The manufactured product finds a large market in America. A few years ago it came under the operation of the United States pure-food laws, and "faced" tea was declared adulterated. This gave an opening to Indian unfaced green teas; and the manufacture of green tea, which had almost died out, received a fillip. In South India a green-tea factory was erected at Quilon, and when the market is favorable this kind of tea is now made. With the present high prices for black tea, the inducement to manufacture green tea is not strong.

In 1912 South India produced 1,822,743 pounds of green tea, or 37 per cent of the production from all India; and in 1913, 521,399 pounds, or 16 per cent of the total production.

[India's over-sea trade in black and green tea for the last five years was discussed in COMMERCE REPORTS for July 17, 1917.]

CACAO IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC.

[Consul Arthur McLean, Puerto Plata, Nov. 10.]

Cacao is the most important product of the Puerto Plata consular district and is, after sugar, the leading export of the Dominican Republic. The Spaniards introduced cacao into the Dominican Republic from Venezuela in the early part of the 18th century, but it is only within the past 25 years that the tree has been cultivated here extensively. The Provinces of La Vega, Samana, Espaillat, and Pacificador, in the northeastern section of the island, lead in the production of cacao in the Dominican Republic, but no statistics are available as to the total area planted.

Native methods of cultivating and preparing cacao for market are primitive and unsatisfactory. Almost all of the cacao is grown on small farms, and there are few large and scientifically managed plantations. These farms are mainly owned by Dominicans and are cultivated by laborers of the same nationality. Farm laborers receive from 50 to 60 cents a day, with a small shack and a patch of land to cultivate for themselves. There is no agricultural school nor experiment farm in the Dominican Republic, although both are badly needed in order to teach the people how to obtain the best results from their lands through the use of modern and scientific methods of cultivation.

The cost of land suitable for the cultivation of cacao in this Republic varies greatly, depending largely on its fertility and accessibility. The rich, black, alluvial lands in the humid and well-watered regions within easy reach of the Samana & Santiago Railroad and Samana Bay are considered the most desirable. Such lands are held at \$60 to \$75 an acre uncleared and from \$75 to \$90 cleared, the cost of clearing being from \$12 to \$18 an acre. The value of the lumber on the lands, which sometimes includes cedar and mahogany, would more than pay for the clearing, but it is burned for lack of sawmills and means of transportation. Lands with bearing cacao trees are valued at \$120 to \$150 an acre, with a rising tendency.

Cultural Methods Employed.

The cacao seeds in this island are planted directly in their permanent place in the field and not in nurseries as in some other countries. The seeds are planted here in October to take advantage of the winter rains. Several seeds are usually planted together, and when the seedlings are a year old the strongest are left to mature and the weakest destroyed. As a rule about 175 trees to the acre are left.

The variety of cacao planted most frequently in this Republic is known as calabacillo, which bears small yellow pods with flat beans. The varieties known as forastero and criollo are also planted, but to a much less extent than the "calabacillo."

While the small plants are growing corn, yuca, bananas, and plantains are planted between them, primarily for shade, but also to afford some returns while the cacao is maturing. As the cacao trees grow larger amapola trees are planted to give them shade. The ground between the cacao trees is cleaned with hoes and machetes, as plows are rarely used in the Dominican Republic. No windbreaks are used to protect the growing plants, nor is there any system of drainage on the plantations. As the land on this island is very rich, the Dominicans have not as yet begun to use fertilizers.

The cacao trees begin to bear the fourth or fifth year, when they yield from one-half to 1½ pounds. From about the seventh until the twenty-fifth year they are at their best, yielding as high as 3½ to 4 pounds per tree on the most fertile lands. Cacao trees have been known to live for more than 100 years, but they seldom bear after the sixtieth year. The trees are pruned here every year, usually after the harvest.

The aphid and a number of other insects attack the cacao trees here. It is said that these pests may be exterminated by merely spraying the trees with a solution containing refined petroleum, yet growers rarely make any attempt to get rid of them.

Exports During Past Five Years.

Cacao is usually transported from the farms to the towns on mule or horse back, as the roads are as yet impassable for carts and wagons. The principal towns in the cacao growing region—Moca, Salcedo, La Vega, and San Francisco de Macoris—are connected by railroad with the port of Sanchez, whence steamers of the Clyde Line sail fortnightly for New York. Cacao in this market is usually packed in jute sacks, weighing 65 kilos (kilo=2.2046 pounds) net and 66 kilos gross. Prior to the war the freight was 45 cents per 100 pounds from Sanchez to New York, although at present it is exactly double that figure.

In the past five years cacao has been shipped from the Dominican Republic as follows:

Year.	Total exports.	To United States.	To Porto Rico.	To France.	To Germany.	To United Kingdom.
1912:						
Kilos.....	20,832,602	14,375,010	.....	2,832,965	3,024,627	.....
Value.....	\$4,248,724	\$2,937,987	.....	\$568,631	\$742,106	.....
1913:						
Kilos.....	19,470,827	12,808,952	.....	3,295,327	3,295,178	8,424
Value.....	\$4,119,955	\$2,774,670	.....	\$666,948	\$675,233	\$2,432
1914:						
Kilos.....	20,744,517	18,829,857	2,561	761,740	1,113,649	9,520
Value.....	\$3,896,499	\$3,515,026	\$544	\$146,852	\$224,339	\$5,712
1915:						
Kilos.....	20,223,023	19,822,049	5,016	307,665	27,038	11,564
Value.....	\$4,963,754	\$4,799,195	\$803	\$45,033	\$2,764	\$3,406
1916:						
Kilos.....	21,063,305	20,325,145	38,931	608,074	.....	14,355
Value.....	\$5,958,659	\$5,810,679	\$7,068	\$135,170	.....	\$3,692

Almost all of the cacao shipped to the United States is carried by the Clyde Line to New York. In 1916 22,249,540 kilos of cacao were shipped into the port of New York from the Dominican Republic. That was a greater quantity than from any other country. The next largest importations of cacao at New York during 1916 were 20,266,313 kilos from Ecuador, 15,895,710 kilos from Trinidad, and 14,471,783 kilos from Brazil.

Cacao from this Republic is known as "Sanchez" on the world markets. The cacao is bought up from the growers by the local exporters, who make them advances on their crops. The exporters usually ship their cacao to New York commission houses on consignment.

Despite the fact that this is one of the great cacao-producing countries of the world, little or no chocolate or confectionery is manufactured in the Dominican Republic. Practically all that is consumed here is imported.

CACAO PRODUCTION IN PORTUGUESE ISLANDS.

[Consul General W. L. Lowrie, Lisbon, Portugal, Oct. 11.]

During the five years from 1912 to 1916 the annual production of cacao in the Portuguese islands of São Thomé and Príncipe was: In 1912, 497,329 sacks; 1913, 535,808 sacks; 1914, 569,422 sacks; 1915, 471,024 sacks; and 1916, 629,450 sacks. (A sack weighs from 132 to 140 pounds.) In 1916 shipments of cacao from São Thomé to Lisbon totaled 582,678 sacks, from Príncipe to Lisbon, 31,704 sacks, from São Thomé to Funchal 12,318 sacks, and from Príncipe to Funchal 2,750 sacks. For many years the exportation of this commodity from Lisbon to England, Germany, Holland, and the United States has been an important industry of this city, but at present it is in a stagnant condition.

The two islands of São Thomé and Príncipe are in the Gulf of Guinea near the Equator and about 125 miles off the coast of Africa. They were discovered in 1471 and now constitute a Province of the Republic of Portugal under the administration of a governor, who resides in the city of São Thomé. The population of the two islands is estimated to be 68,220, consisting of: Natives, 23,650; contract laborers, 35,535; child workers, 6,985; Europeans, 2,000; Chinese, 50.

Contract Labor—Yield per Acre.

Nearly all the work of the cacao plantations is done by contract labor. The wages paid are very small, about 3.60 escudos a month, an escudo equaling \$1.08 at par. The men are allowed to plant corn on certain areas and to sell flour to the commercial firms. Laborers are contracted for in Angola and other near-by African States. They are examined by physicians and vaccinated before the contract is made. The planters provide houses for the men, who are free to labor on which plantation they wish, a nine-hour day prevailing.

The area devoted to cacao trees in the two islands approximates 125,000 acres. The average production per tree is 2.2 pounds, and a tree yields for 20 years before it must be replaced. The average production per acre is 250 pounds, although this figure is sometimes greatly exceeded when a plantation is at its best. Modern methods have been introduced for the preparation and handling of the cacao for shipment [see COMMERCE REPORTS for Dec. 23, 1915, p. 1159]. The most serious drawback to the development of the islands has been the "sleeping sickness," but a great effort has been made by the Portuguese Government to eradicate the disease.

NEW BRUNSWICK FOX BREEDERS FORM FUR SALES BOARD.

[Consul E. Verne Richardson, Moncton, New Brunswick, Canada, Nov. 23.]

At a recently held meeting of representative fox breeders owning ranches in various parts of this Province, it was decided to organize a fur-sales board as a means of facilitating sales of fox skins, of which New Brunswick produces annually a fair number. The practice hitherto in vogue of the dealers and breeders acting independently has been found quite unsatisfactory. Persons interested in this matter should communicate with Mr. C. C. Avard, Sackville, New Brunswick, who will be the secretary of the organization.

PROPOSALS FOR GOVERNMENT SUPPLIES AND CONSTRUCTION.

[Correspondence should be direct with the offices named, and specifications and other information can usually be obtained at the points where the goods are to be delivered or the work is to be performed. In cases where the time limit is too short to permit firms to submit tenders, they should ask to be placed on the mailing lists of such offices to receive notices calling for future supplies or work of a similar nature.]

Repair of tender, No. 4943.—Sealed proposals will be received by the lighthouse inspector, Portland, Oreg., until December 18, 1917, for docking and repairing the lighthouse tender *Heather*.

Post-office construction, No. 4944.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Supervising Architect's Office, Treasury Department, Washington, D. C., until January 7, 1918, for the construction of post-office buildings at Eldorado, Kans., and at Shawnee, Okla.; and until December 27, 1917, for the extension, remodeling, etc., of the post office and courthouse at Alexandria, La.

Steel barge, No. 4945.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the Mississippi River Commission, first and second districts, customhouse, Memphis, Tenn., until December 17, 1917, for constructing and delivering complete one steel barge, No. 1719.

Repair of tender, No. 4946.—Sealed proposals will be received by the lighthouse inspector, Milwaukee, Wis., until December 10, 1917, for docking and repairing light vessels, No. 55, proposal No. 5132; No. 56, proposal No. 5133; No. 60, proposal No. 5134; No. 77, proposal No. 5135.

Medical supplies, No. 4947.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Field Medical Supply Depot, United States Army, 21 M Street NE., Washington, D. C., until December 20, 1917, for furnishing and delivering acidum boricum tablets, acidum salicylicum tablets, acidum tannicum tablets, adrena-line tablets, amilis nitrils crystals, argyrol, arsenil trioxidum aspirin tablets, bismuthl subnitras, coffeina citrata, capsicum tablets, codeina tablets, glycerinum in quart bottles, iodum-potassii iodidum, etc.

Motor generator sets, No. 4948.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Bureau of Yards and Docks, Navy Department, Washington, D. C., until December 17, 1917, for furnishing and delivering two 300-kilowatt motor generator sets and switchboards at the navy yard, New York, N. Y.; four 300-kilowatt motor generator sets and switchboards at the navy yard, Philadelphia, Pa.; four 300-kilowatt motor generator and switchboards at the navy yard, Norfolk, Va.; and three 500-kilowatt motor generator sets at the navy yard, Washington, D. C. Specifications No. 2711.

Curacao Firm Wishes to Buy Straw Hats for American Importers.

The American consul at Curacao, Dutch West Indies, has transmitted the name of a firm that has been acting as the local buyer for American importers of hats for many years and desires to represent other American firms. The name of the Curacao firm can be obtained at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district or cooperative offices by referring to file No. 93174.

OFFICES OF THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE.**DISTRICT OFFICES.**

NEW YORK: 734 Customhouse.
BOSTON: 1801 Customhouse.
CHICAGO: 504 Federal Building.
ST. LOUIS: 402 Third National Bank Building.
NEW ORLEANS: 1020 Hibernia Bank Building.
SAN FRANCISCO: 807 Customhouse.
SEATTLE: 846 Henry Building.

COOPERATIVE OFFICES.

CLEVELAND: Chamber of Commerce.
CINCINNATI: Chamber of Commerce.
CINCINNATI: General Freight Agent, Southern Railway, 96 Ingalls Building.
LOS ANGELES: Chamber of Commerce.
PHILADELPHIA: Chamber of Commerce.
CHATTANOOGA: South American Agent, Southern Railway System.
DAYTON: Greater Dayton Association.
PORTLAND, OREG.: Chamber of Commerce.

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the Bureau and its district and cooperative offices. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and state opportunity number. The Bureau does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases. Symbols: * Reported by American consular officers; † Reported by commercial attachés and commercial agents; ‡ Direct inquiries received by the Bureau.

In considering the following "opportunities" special regard should be had to the laws and regulations governing export licenses and trading with the enemy.

Boots and shoes-----	25981	Machinery-----	25980, 25986
Chemicals-----	25988	Seeds-----	25984
Electrical machinery and apparatus-----	25985	Textiles-----	25983
Electric touring car-----	25987	Toys-----	25982
General representation-----	25979	Yarn-----	25983

25979.†—A company in Norway, with branches in Russia and Scandinavian countries, desires to be placed in communication with American manufacturers and exporters. No particular line is mentioned. Reference.

25980.*—The chief secretary of a State in India desires to be put in touch with American manufacturers and exporters capable of supplying him with machinery for the manufacture of salt artificially from sea water by mechanical evaporation. He desires to know the cost of heating with wood, coal, oil, and electricity for use in such a plant. The cost of manufacture must not exceed 15 shillings per ton. Full information should be submitted.

25981.*—A firm in India desires to secure an agency, on a commission basis, for the sale of boots and shoes. Quotations should be made f. o. b. shipping port. Payment will be made by cash against documents. Correspondence may be in English. Reference.

25982.*—A man in Mexico wishes to purchase toys. Payment will be made by cash against documents. The goods should be very carefully packed. Correspondence should be in Spanish.

25983.*—An agency is desired by a firm in France for the sale of yarn and all kinds of textiles. Correspondence is preferred in French. References.

25984.*—A man in South Africa is in the market for vegetable seeds, especially squash, cucumber, melon, onion, tomato, turnip, beet, lettuce, peas, and beans. Quotations may be made f. o. b. New York. Payment will be made by cash against documents. Correspondence may be in English. References.

25985.*—A firm in Italy desires to purchase large quantities of electric meters, especially the monophase type; electric lamps, voltage 30 to 60 and candle-power 5 to 50; electric machinery of all kinds, especially alternators and motors; electric transformers; and brass and leaded iron conduits, internal diameters 7, 9, 11, 13½, 16, and 23 millimeters. Payment will be made against shipping documents through bank. Correspondence should be in French or Italian.

25986.*—A company in England wishes to buy complete machinery and equipment for making black lead pencils, such as extruding presses for pressing lead through die, ploughing machine to groove the slats to fit leads, finishing machine to mold the pencils after they have been glued, papering machines to paper pencils, and polishing machine. Payment will be made by cash against documents. References.

25987.*—A man in Norway desires to purchase one 5 or 7 passenger electric touring car as a sample, with a view to securing an agency for the sale of such cars in Norway. Quotations should be made f. o. b. New York. Payment will be made by cash against bill of lading or against shipping documents in New York. Quotations should be cabled. Correspondence may be in English. References.

25988.*—A merchant in Australia wishes to be placed in communication with American manufacturers of chemicals.

COMMERCE REPORTS



DAILY CONSULAR AND TRADE REPORTS
ISSUED DAILY BY THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

For sale by the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C., at \$2.50 per year



No. 284 Washington, D. C., Wednesday, December 5 1917

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IMPORTANT CHANGE IN REGARD TO LICENSING SMALL SHIPMENTS.

The War Trade Board has announced that the ruling under which the exportation of food grains, flour, butter, and sugar might be licensed by collectors of customs at points of exit when the quantities shipped were less than 125 bushels of food grains, 25 barrels of flour, 125 pounds of butter, and 25 barrels of sugar, has been rescinded and withdrawn. In order, however, to provide for the needs of those persons in contiguous countries who have become dependent upon the United States for their daily sustenance, the board has authorized the collectors of customs, in their discretion, to license the exportation of small quantities of foodstuffs and feedstuffs, when such exportation involves merely frontier traffic on a small scale by persons living near the border, such as that arising out of customary retail purchases for their own needs.

TRADING WITH THE ENEMY LIST.

Since the passage of the "Trading with the Enemy Act," approved October 6, 1917, the War Trade Board has received, from exporters, importers, and other persons engaged in foreign trade, numerous and urgent requests that there be published for their guidance in observing the provisions of the statute, a list of those concerns in neutral countries, with whom, under the provisions of the "Trading with the Enemy Act," it would be illegal to trade without a license. In response to these representations, the War Trade Board, in co-operation with other Governmental departments, has compiled a list known as the "Enemy Trading List," which has been made public to-day and is now being distributed to merchants and commercial organizations throughout the country. This list contains the names of some 1,600 concerns in Latin-America and includes a prefatory note of the following tenor:

1. The Enemy Trading List is compiled for the benefit of American merchants who, by the Trading with the Enemy Act, are prohibited under penalties from trading with the enemy, or ally of enemy, without first obtaining a license from the War Trade Board.

This is a list of enemies and allies of enemies, and other persons, firms, and corporations, who there is reasonable cause to believe

have acted, directly or indirectly, for, on account of, on behalf of, or for the benefit of enemies and allies of enemies.

This list does not purport to be a complete list. Any person, firm, or corporation trading with any other person, firm, or corporation who there is reasonable cause to believe is an enemy or ally of enemy, or in such trade is acting for, on account of, on behalf of, or for the benefit of an enemy or ally of enemy, is not relieved from the prohibitions and penalties imposed by the Trading with the Enemy Act by reason of the fact that the name of such other person, firm, or corporation does not appear upon this list.

2. In order to minimize, as far as possible, any inconvenience which may be caused to American merchants by the dislocation of foreign trade owing to the operation of the Trading with the Enemy Act, the War Trade Board is collecting and classifying the names of nonenemy firms who may be able to act as substitutes for firms who may prove to be enemies or allies of the enemy, within the meaning of the Trading with the Enemy Act. A considerable amount of information is already available at the War Trade Board, and it will be in many cases possible to suggest the names of satisfactory substitutes without the necessity of referring the matter abroad. The Board is, however, prepared on application to inquire of United States consuls abroad for the names of suitable substitutes. When the applicant wishes this done by telegraph he will be required to undertake to pay the cost of telegraphic correspondence.

The Board assumes no responsibility whatever for the credit, standing, or financial responsibility of such substitute firms.

It would greatly facilitate the work of the War Trade Board if applicants in making inquiries would specify the particular trade or trades for which substitutes are required.

3. The Enemy Trading List, of which this is the first issue, will be telegraphed on the day of its issue to the representative of the United States of America in each country abroad, who will be instructed to notify all American consuls to whom persons abroad should apply for information as to the names on this list. Firms in the United States of America with agencies or branches abroad should, however, furnish such agencies or branches with copies of the lists as they are published. The list will be mailed as issued to all firms appearing on the mailing list of the War Trade Board, 1435 K Street NW., Washington, D. C.

4. Additions to and variations in this list will be published approximately on the 1st and 15th of each month. The lists will be published in the Official Bulletin, published daily by the Committee on Public Information, 10 Jackson Place, Washington, D. C., which is for sale at \$5 per year; and in COMMERCE REPORTS, issued daily by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, Department of Commerce, Washington, D. C., which is for sale by the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C., or from the district offices of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce as listed below, at \$2.50 per year. Copies of the lists may also be obtained from the War Trade Board, 1435 K Street NW., Washington, D. C., and also from the branch offices of the War Trade Board and the district and cooperative offices of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, as follows:

Branch Offices of the War Trade Board.

Canal Bank Building.....	New Orleans, La.
45 Broadway.....	New York, N. Y.
216 Customhouse.....	San Francisco, Cal.
825 Henry Building.....	Seattle, Wash.
402 Third National Bank Building.....	St. Louis, Mo.
Federal Building.....	Galveston, Tex.
Savannah Bank & Trust Co. Building.....	Savannah, Ga.
Customhouse.....	Mobile, Ala.
International Bank Building.....	Los Angeles, Cal.
748 Morgan Building.....	Portland, Oreg.
305 Lafayette Building.....	Philadelphia, Pa.

District Offices of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

734 Customhouse.....	New York, N. Y.
1801 Customhouse.....	Boston, Mass.
504 Federal Building.....	Chicago, Ill.
402 Third National Bank Building.....	St. Louis, Mo.
1020 Hibernia Bank Building.....	New Orleans, La.
307 Customhouse.....	San Francisco, Cal.
848 Henry Building.....	Seattle, Wash.

Cooperative Offices of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

Chamber of Commerce.....	Cleveland, Ohio.
Chamber of Commerce.....	Cincinnati, Ohio.
Chamber of Commerce.....	Los Angeles, Cal.
Chamber of Commerce.....	Philadelphia, Pa.
Chamber of Commerce.....	Portland, Oreg.
Greater Dayton Association.....	Dayton, Ohio.
South American Agent, Southern Ry.....	Chattanooga, Tenn.
General Freight Agent, Southern Ry., 96 Ingalls Building.....	Cincinnati, Ohio.

INDEX OF NAMES BY COUNTRIES.

ARGENTINA.

Aachen & Munchner Insurance Co. Buenos Aires.
 Accumul torin Fabrik Aktien- gesellschaft. Buenos Aires.
 Aders, Alberto & Co. Buenos Aires.
 Aischmann, Luis. Buenos Aires.
 Allgemeine Electricitats Gesell- schaft. Buenos Aires.
 Amme Giesecke & Koenigen. Buenos Aires.
 Argentine Real Estate & Fi- nance Corporation (Ltd.). Buenos Aires.
 Arienti, Hector. Buenos Aires.
 Arnoli, H. Buenos Aires.
 Austro-American Steamship Co. Buenos Aires.
 Banco Aleman Transatlantico. Buenos Aires.
 Banco Germanico de la Amer- ica del Sud. Buenos Aires.
 Bauer, P., & Co. Buenos Aires.
 Bayer, F., & Co. Buenos Aires.
 Bleyer, Carlos. Buenos Aires.
 Blum & Biorckland. Buenos Aires.
 Boeker & Cie. Buenos Air s.
 Boley, Max. Buenos Aires.
 Brauss, Muhn & Co. Buenos Aires.
 Bromberg & Co. Buenos Aires.
 Buddensiez, Juan. Buenos Aires.
 Bunge & Born. Buenos Aires.
 Burkart, Norberto. Buenos Aires.
 Bustamente, Miguel. Buenos Air s.
 Callejas, J. Buenos Aires.
 Carrasco, A. Buenos Air s.
 Cattaneo, Constantino. Buenos Aires.
 Cervini, Luis. Buenos Aires.
 Christians & Co. Buenos Aires.
 Clarfeld, Frederico & Co. Buenos Aires.
 Compania Alemana de De- positos de Carbon. Buenos Aires.
 Compania Alemana Trans- atlantica de Electricidad. Buenos Aires.
 Compania Argentina de Elec- tricidad. Buenos Aires.

Compania Sudamericana de Electricidad. Buenos Aires.
 Curt Berber & Co. Buenos Aires.
 Deutsche Sudamerikanische Pan. Buenos Aires.
 Duckwitz, Otto. Buenos Aires.
 Dyckerhoff & Wilmann. Buenos Aires.
 Empresa de Luz y Fuerza. Buenos Aires.
 En els & Cia. Buenos Aires.
 Epperlein, Max. Buenos Aires.
 Exposicion Boston. Buenos Aires.
 Fadum & Co. Buenos Aires.
 Felty, Felipe. Buenos Aires.
 Fitzi, Luis. Buenos Aires and Mendoza.
 Fuhrmann, H., & Co. Buenos Aires.
 German Coal Depot. Buenos Aires.
 Goedhart, Hermanos. Buenos Aires.
 Gomez, Pedro. Buenos Aires.
 Graeff, Fritz. Buenos Aires.
 Haradt, Engelbert & Co. Buenos Aires.
 Harut, E. W., & Co. Buenos Aires.
 Hartrott, A. Buenos Aires.
 Hasenclever & Co. Buenos Aires.
 Hasche, M. E. Buenos Aires.
 Heinlein & Co. Buenos Aires.
 Hellmuth, Otto Carl. Buenos Aires.
 Herder, Friedr. Abr. Sohn. Buenos Aires.
 Hermann, E. Buenos Aires.
 Hess, Julio. Buenos Aires.
 Hoffman & Toker. Buenos Aires.
 Ingenio Azucarero Germano Ar- gentino. Tucuman.
 Isely, Carlos. Buenos Aires.
 Jaenecke Hermanos (F. Schneemann). Buenos Aires.
 Janowitz, A. Buenos Aires.
 Junghans, Hermanos. Buenos Aires.
 Kaufmann, Rudolph. Buenos Aires.
 Kaufmann, Gustavo. Buenos Aires.
 Kirschbaum & Co. Buenos Aires.

ARGENTINA—Continued.

Koerting, Hermanos.....	Buenos Aires.	Plate, Juan F.....	Buenos Aires.
Keerster, Nicolaus.....	Buenos Aires.	Plant & Co.,.....	Buenos Aires.
Kozel, Federico.....	Buenos Aires.	Portena Tug Co.....	Buenos Aires.
Krabb, Hermann.....	Buenos Aires.	Rathje & Co.....	Buenos Aires.
Lafont, J. A.....	Buenos Aires.	La Razon.....	Buenos Aires.
Lalussen & Co.....	Buenos Aires.	Rein & Co.....	Buenos Aires.
Lasker & Co.....	Buenos Aires.	Rey, Luis.....	Buenos Aires.
Lind, V. & Co.....	Buenos Aires.	Rossi, Francisco.....	Buenos Aires.
Lindtadel, Schreyer & Co.....	Buenos Aires.	Sadler, Bruno.....	Buenos Aires.
Lorient, Juan F.....	Buenos Aires.	Salvini, Geronimo.....	Buenos Aires.
Mantoy, Jules.....	Buenos Aires.	Schelp & Schelp.....	Buenos Aires.
Martínez de Hoz, Florencio & Co.....	Buenos Aires.	Siemens, Schuckert Companies.....	Buenos Aires.
Melber, Leon.....	Buenos Aires.	Sociedad Anónima Argentina Hidráulica-Agrícola.....	
Mengers & Co.....	Buenos Aires.	Sociedad Financiera Industrial Sud Americana.....	Buenos Aires.
Mey, Hugo.....	Buenos Aires.	Soteras Y Val.....	Buenos Aires.
Meyer, D., & Co.....	Bahia Blanca.	Stahlinger, Guillermo & Co.....	Buenos Aires.
Mirino, Juan.....	Buenos Aires.	Staudt & Co.....	Buenos Aires.
Mitau & Grether.....	Buenos Aires.	Steffens & Nolle, A. G.....	Buenos Aires.
Mooring, Edmund.....	Buenos Aires.	Steenberg, H. Jr., & Co.....	Buenos Aires.
Muller, Hermanos.....	San Julian, Patagonia.	Stremmler, Carlos.....	Buenos Aires.
North German Lloyd Steamship Co.....	Buenos Aires.	Szule & Raedler.....	Buenos Aires.
Novara, Francisco.....	Bahia Blanca.	Terzy, Tibero.....	Buenos Aires.
Orenstein and Koppel.....	Buenos Aires.	"La Union".....	Buenos Aires.
Oster, Jorge.....	Buenos Aires.	La Vanguardia.....	Buenos Aires.
Ostermeyer, Herman.....	Buenos Aires.	Vilmer, Rimpler & Co.....	Buenos Aires and Mendoza.
Padro, Palmarin M., & Co.....	Buenos Aires.	Wasserman, J., & Co.....	Buenos Aires.
Pels & Lakatos.....	Buenos Aires.	Well, Hermanos.....	Buenos Aires.
Peters, Hermanos.....	Buenos Aires.	Wentzky, R. von.....	Buenos Aires.
Petersen, Alejandro, & Co.....	Buenos Aires.	Wertheimer Sociedad Exportadores.....	Buenos Aires.
Pfeiffer, Bruno & Herman.....	Buenos Aires.	Weygand & Zumm Felde.....	Buenos Aires.
Pintos, Domingo Manuel.....	Buenos Aires.		
Plata Zeitung.....	Buenos Aires.		

BOLIVIA.

Albrecht, C. & Co.....	La Paz.	Empresa Estanifer de Colquechaca.....	Colquechaca.
Arnold & Co.....	Santa Cruz de la Sierra and Riberalta.	Enns & Webber.....	La Paz.
Bacovich, Marcos.....	Oruro.	Eulert, F. G.....	La Paz.
Ballerstaedt, Pablo.....	Potosí.	France, Jose Maria.....	La Paz.
Banco Aleman Transatlantico (Deutsche Ueberseeische Bank).....		Freudenthal Hermanos.....	La Paz.
Barber, Alfred W., & Co.....	Cochabamba and Riberalta.	Fricke, Arturo.....	Oruro.
Bickenbach & Co.....	Oruro and Cochabamba.	Fricke, Jermann & Co.....	Oruro, Cochabamba.
Blau, Stephen.....	La Paz.	Fuss, Alfred (Maison Herchmann & Co.).....	La Paz.
Bolhme, Enrique.....	La Paz and Oruro.	Gasser, Carlos.....	Santa Cruz.
Botica, Alemana.....	Oruro.	Gasser, Schweitzer & Co.....	Santa Cruz de la Sierra.
Cabrera, Francisco.....	Trinidad.	Gundlach, C. F.....	Oruro.
Gallenius, Gustavo.....	La Paz.	Gunther, Ernest.....	Sorata.
Calsow & Ress.....	Lagunillas, Yacuibab, and Charagua.	Gunther, Pablo.....	Oruro.
Cerveceria Aguila (Lieber, Arturo).....	Tarja.	Haan, Pablo.....	Avicaya, Oruro.
Cerveceria Calacala (Heimbarto, Hinze & Co.).....	Oruro.	Haar, Heinz.....	Oruro.
Cerveceria Germania (Schmorr, Guillermo).....	Tarja.	Haase & Co., calle Bolivar, 101.....	Potosí.
Colsman, Bechme & Co.....	La Paz and Oruro.	Haus, Pablo.....	La Paz.
Cie Commercial Matto Grossense & Boliviana Limitada (or Sociedad).....	Puerto-Suarez and Guajara-Mirim.	Hardt, E. & W., & Co.....	La Paz, Sucre, Oruro, and Cochabamba.
Dauelsberg & Co.....	La Paz and Oruro.	Hinke, Gustave, & Co.....	La Paz, Oruro, Potosí, and Uyuni.
Deutsche Ueberseeische Bank (Banco Aleman Transatlantico).....		Hinze, Heimbarto & Co.....	Oruro.
Denniston, Harold.....	La Paz.	Hirschmann & Co.....	La Paz, Oruro, and Cochabamba.
Diaz Hijos & Co.....	Sucre.	Jacoby, Arnold & Co.....	Cochabamba.
Dohrmann, Dahse & Co.....	Oruro and Potosí.	Jorgens & Co., calle Oruro.....	Potosí.
Ehrhorn, Oscar A.....	Cochabamba.	Kochler, E., & Co.....	Guajara-Mirim.
El Gallo.....	La Paz.	Kruger, R., & Co.....	Cochabamba.
Elsner, August.....	Santa Cruz.	Kuster, F.....	Sucre.
Elsner, Juan, & Co.....	Santa Cruz.	La Mariposa.....	La Paz.
El Tigre.....	La Paz.	Lah, Joseph.....	La Paz and Carabuco.
Emmel Hermanos.....	La Paz.	Lambert, Ernest.....	Trinidad.
		Lazcano, Alejandro.....	Sucre and Potosí.
		Lentenecker, Ernst.....	Trinidad.
		Liebers, Arturo, Cerveceria Aguila.....	Tarja.
		Martins, F., & Co.....	La Paz & Oruro.
		Marris, Juan.....	Potosí.
		Mayer, Juan.....	Trinidad.

BOLIVIA—Continued.

Moersch Bauer & Co.	Sucre, Potosí, and Colquechaca.
Mollard, M.	Cochabamba.
Morales, Bertram & Co.	Colquechaca, Chaco, and Potosí.
Morales, Hermanos (Morales, Bertram & Co.)	Cochabamba.
Morales, Jose	Santa Cruz.
Muller, Wilhelm	La Paz and Oruro.
Nolte, E., & Co.	Tarja.
Pensamiento, El	Villa Montes.
Pfanz, Carlos	La Paz.
Pinzel, Juan	La Paz.
Precht, Henry	Santa Cruz.
La Providencia	Cochabamba and Sucre.
Quidde & Gattermann	Cochabamba.
Quidde, J.	Oruro.
Reinecke, Findel & Co.	Yacuba.
Ritter, Otto	Oruro.
Romicin, E.	La Paz.
Rulz, Carlos	Avicaya, Oruro.
Schacke, G.	Oruro.
Schluter & Co. (successors)	Cochabamba.
Schmidt, Otto, & Co. (successors)	Santa Cruz, Potosí, and Suarez.
Schnack, Heinrich	Tarja.
Schnor, Guillermo (successors), Cerveceria Germana	

Schubert, H. G.	Oruro and La Paz.
Schutte, Nicolas (Morales, Bertram & Co.)	Potosí.
Schweitzer, Felipe	Santa Cruz.
Selber, Emil	Sucre.
Sociedad Comercial Matto-grossense & Boliviana (Limitada)	Puerto, Suarez, and Guajara-Virijn.
Stark & Brandenburg	Cochabamba.
Staudt & Co.	Villa Montes, Tarja etc.
Stofen, Schnack, Muller & Co.	Santa Cruz, Puerto, Suarez, etc.
Teran, Arturo	Buraca, Oruro.
Urinovich, Hermanos, F.	Uyuni.
Villalobos, Moises J.	La Paz.
Wantig & Muller	Cochabamba.
Weber, Albert	Oruro.
La Vanguardia	La Paz.
Weibrucht, A.	Santa Cruz.
Weisser, Freres	Ocuri Mines, Chal-lapata.
Wichtendahl, Guillermo	La Paz.
Yancovich, Jorge	Oruro.
Zeller, Villinger	Santa Cruz, Trinidad Yacuba, Puerto, Suarez, Guayara, Merim, etc.

BRAZIL.

Achim & Co.	Joinville, Sta. Catharina.
Acosta Ferreira & Co.	Rio de Janeiro.
Aguiar, A. de, & Co.	Santos.
Aguiar, Armando	Santos.
Ahlrs, Rudolph Otto	Lara.
Almeida, D. G. W.	Manass.
Allemao, Casa	São Paulo.
Almeida, Mario de	Rio de Janeiro.
Allenbrun, C. Q.	Porto Alegre.
Andrade, Marcilino	Santos.
AO Cylindro	Porto Alegre.
Araujo & Boavista	Rua Buenos Aires 4, Rio de Janeiro.
Arp & Co.	Rua do Ouvidor 102 and Rua Coronel Moreira Cesar 102, Rio de Janeiro.
Baasch, Hermann	Rua São Bento 22, Rio de Janeiro.
Banco Aleman Transatlantico (Deutsche Ueberseeische Bank)	
Banco Germanico de la America del Sud (Deutsche Süd-Amerikanische Bank)	
Bandeira, Luis	Rio de Janeiro.
Barza & Co.	Rua Marques de Dens 8, Pernambuco.
Bauer, Walter F.	Rua General Camara 88, Rio de Janeiro; and Recife, Pernambuco.
Bayer, Frederico & Co.	Travessa Santa Rita 22-24, Rio de Janeiro.
Beckmann & Co.	Rua Florencio de Abreu 99 and Caixa Postal 1154, São Paulo.
Behrensdoiff, Viuva de F., & Co.	Rua Voluntarios da Patria, Porto Alegre; and Pelotas.
Behrmann & Co.	Rua das Princesas, Bahia.
Bellingrodt & Meyer	Rua São Pedro 70, Rio de Janeiro.

Bercht Bros.	Rua Voluntarios da Patria 46, Porto Alegre.
Berringer & Co.	Para.
Bold, Otto	Ceara.
Bier, F. G., & Co.	Rua 7 de Setembro 106, Porto Alegre.
Blumenau Zeitung	Blumenau.
Boehm, Otto, or C. W. Boehm (Kolonie Zeitung)	Joinville, Sta. Catharina.
Borges, Antonio	Rua Voluntarios da Patria 46, Porto Alegre.
Borstelmann & Co.	Pernambuco; and Rua Alfandega 121, Macelo.
Braghini, Cezar	São Paulo.
Brasiliense Bank für Deutschland	Bahia, Porto Alegre, Rio de Janeiro, Santos, and São Paulo.
Brazilera de Electricidad Companhia (branch of Siemens Schuckert Werke)	Avenida Rio Branco 79 and 81, Rua General Camara 87, Rua do Hospicio 29, Rio de Janeiro; and Rua São João, Bahia.
Brenne, Rudolpho	São Paulo.
Bromberg & Co.	Rua 7 de Setembro 96 and 98, Rua dos Andradas 132, Porto Alegre; Hospicio 22, Rio de Janeiro; Bahia; São Paulo.
Brusque Zeitung	Brusque.
Buschmann, C.	Rua Theophilo Ottoni 78, Rio de Janeiro.
Buckup, P.	Santos and São Paulo.
Carriconde, Epaminondas	Porto Alegre.
Carvalho, Onofre & Co.	Romador.
Carvalho, Paes & Co.	Rio de Janeiro.

BRAZIL—Continued.

Casa Cosmos.....	São Paulo.	Ebel, Alfredo.....	Rua da Alameda
Casa do Aco. (See Schneider, Carl.)		58, Rio de Janeiro.	
Casa Enxoval. (See Klausner & Co.)		Eiffier, Bernard.....	Manaos, Para, and
Casa Fuchs.....	São Paulo.	Pernambuco.	
Casa Lemecke.....	Rua Libero Badaro	Engel, Fritz.....	Rio Grande do Sul.
	104, São Paulo.	Engelhardt, Carlos.....	Rua Voluntarios da
Casa Rosenhain. (See Schmidt & Co.)			Patria 32, Porto
Casilla, Leopold & Co.....	Rio de Janeiro.		Alegre; Rua Ma-
Chaves, Joas Madureira.....	Rio de Janeiro.		rechal Floriano 58,
Chaves, J. P.....	Santos.		Rio Grande; Rio
Cohen, G. (Fabrica de Discos			Grande do Sul.
Odeon).....	Boulevard 28 de Se-	Eeserky, Carlos.....	San Salvador.
	ptembro 36-56, Rio	Fabrica Metallurgica Allema	Rua Dutra Rodri-
	de Janeiro.	(Fabrica Metallurgica de	gues 31, São
Commerce de Joinville.....	Joinville.	Sao Paulo).	Paulo.
Companhia Brasileira de Elec-		Fabrica de Roupas Brancas	Rua Haddock Lo-
tricidade (branch of Siemens		"Cometa."	bo 94-96, Rio de
Schuckert Werke).....	Avenida Rio Bran-		Janeiro.
	co 79-81, Rua	Faria, Marcos de.....	Santos.
	General Camara	Ferreira, Jose Germano.....	Rua São Bento 5,
	87, Rua Hospicio		Rio de Janeiro.
	29, Rio de Janeiro;	Festenburg & Co.....	Corumbá.
	and Rua São Jose,	Figueiredo, Leopold & Co.....	Santos.
	Bahia.	Flues, Oscar.....	Rua Libero Balmiro
Companhia Graphica Rio Gran-			167 and Caixa
dense O Diario.....	Porto Alegre.		Postal 1122, São
Companhia Lithographica			Paulo.
Hartmann Reichenbach.....	Rua Gusmoes 93,	Fonseca, Arthur.....	São Francisco do
	São Paulo and		Sul.
	Santos.	Fonseco, Raymond.....	Pernambuco.
Contreiras, H.....	Belem, Para.	Fraeb & Co.....	Rua 7 de Setembro
Cooperativa Brasil, Limitada.	Rio de Janeiro.		90, Porto Alegre;
Correa, Antonio Jose.....	Rua de Alameda		Pelotas; Rio
	112, Rio de Ja-		Grande do Sul.
	neiro.	Freitag, M. G.....	Rua Visconde de
Correio Da Manha.....	Rio de Janeiro.		Inhuama 89, Rio
Costa, M. da Almeida & Co.....	Rua São Bento 5,		de Janeiro.
	Rio de Janeiro.	Freyler, Hugo.....	Porto Alegre.
Costa, Raymundo.....	Caixa do Correo	Friedrichs & Timmann.....	Rua dos Drogui-
	1768, Rio de Ja-		stas, Bahia.
	neiro.	Friedrichs, Werner.....	Rua Quinze No-
Damazio, Guillermino.....	Rua 24 de Maio,		vembro, Para.
	Santos.	Fuchs, J. & Co. (Casa Fuchs).....	Rua São Bento 33,
Dantas, Vincente.....	Bahia.		São Paulo.
Darigo, Michele.....	Santos.	Gasmotorenfabrik Deutz.....	Avenida Rio Bran-
Dauch & Co.....	Rua Frel Gaspar,		co 11, Rio de Ja-
	16, Santos.		neiro; Rua Flor-
David & Co.....	Rio de Janeiro.		iano Peixoto 11,
Defner, G., & Co.....	Manaos.		Pernambuco.
Demarchi & Co.....	Uruguayana.	Gazetta Brusquense.....	Brusque.
Deutsche Sud-Amerikanische		Gazetta de Commercio.....	Joinville.
Bank. (See Banco Germani-		Germania.....	São Paulo.
co de la America del Sud.)		Gobiz, Mancel.....	Santos.
Deutsche Sud Amerikanische		Gomer, Luiz (Cooperative Rio de Janeiro.	
Telegraphen Gesellschaft A.		Brasil).	
G.....	Rua da Assembleia	Gomes, O. & Co.....	Rua da Alameda
	8; Rua General		49, Rio de Janeiro.
	Camara 62, Rio de	Gomez, Candido.....	Rio de Janeiro
	Janeiro; and Per-	Gomes Manoll.....	São Paulo.
	nambuco.	Gonczy.....	Porto Alegre.
Deutsche Uoberseeische Bank.		Gourley Co., J. P.....	Rio de Janeiro.
(See Banco Aleman Trans-		Granja, M. P.....	São Paulo.
atlantico.)		Green & Co.....	Belem, Para.
Deutsche Zeitung (Diario Alle-		Green, W.....	Manaos.
mao).....	São Paulo.	Griesbach, Max.....	Para.
Deutsche Volksblatt.....	Porto Alegre.	Guimares, F.....	Bahia.
Deutschewacht.....	Rio Grande do Sul.	Guimares, Jose.....	Santos.
Diario Espanal.....	São Paulo.	"A Guerra".....	Bahia.
O Diario.....	Porto Alegre.	Gundlach, Germano & Co.....	Rua General Victo-
Dibo, Joas M.....	Rio de Janeiro.		rino 47-49, Porto
Diebold, Alexander.....	Santos.		Alegre.
Diebold & Co.....	Rua Santo Antonio	Gunther Compaaia.....	Rio de Janeiro.
	56, Santos.	Gutmann, Henrique.....	Corumbá.
Diedrichsen, A.....	Santos.	Hackradt, Fernando, & Co.....	Rua A Penteado 15,
Diehl, P. J.....	São Paulo.		São Paulo; Rua
Dienstbach, Theodor C., & Co.	Rua dos Andradas		Voluntarios da
	445, Porto Alegre.		Patria 113, Porto
Diniz, Benedicto.....	São Paulo.		Alegre; and Cori-
Domschke & Co.....	Rua das Princezas,		tyba.
	Bahia.	Haering, Fritz.....	Rio de Janeiro.
Drecker, Josef.....	Rio de Janeiro.	Hanan, Eduardo & Co.....	São Paulo.
Dreher, Edmundo & Co.....	Rua Barão do Tri-	Hanau, Cass.....	Rua São Bento 55
	umpfo 6, Porto		and Caixa Postal
	Alegre.		45, São Paulo.
Dunhofer, Juan.....	Rio de Janeiro.		

BRAZIL—Continued.

Hansen, Alfredo.....	Rua General Camara 62, Rio de Janeiro.	Lallemant, J. L.....	Rio Trapiche Caixa 343, Rio de Janeiro.
Harm, Henrich.....	Manaos and Itacatiara.	Langkger, A. V.....	Santos.
Hartje, Johann Friedrich.....	Belem, Para.	Laves de Moraes, Jose.....	São Paulo.
Hartmann, H.....	Rua Barão da Victoria 25, Pernambuco.	Leal, Athanasio.....	São Francisco do Sul.
Hartmann, Julius.....	São Paulo and Santos.	Leite de Fonseca, A.....	Rua São Bento 5, Rio de Janeiro.
Hartmann Reichenbach, Cia Lithographica.....	Rua Gusmoes 93, São Paulo; and Santos.	Lesinski & Co.....	Rua Voluntarios da Patria 401, Porto Alegre.
Hasenclever & Co.....	Rio de Janeiro; Rua L. Badaro 70, São Paulo.	Lima, Luzio Horacio (Ber-ringer & Co.).....	Para.
Haupt & Co.....	Rua da Alandega 60 and Rua Boa Vista 25, Rio de Janeiro.	Linhares, Antonio P.....	Para.
Helse, Hugo & Co.....	Rua Florencio de Abreu, São Paulo and Santos.	Lino, Jose, & Co.....	Rio de Janeiro.
Hellwegg, Carl.....	Santos.	Lisboa, Pedro Christ.....	Santos.
Herschil, M.....	Santa Catarina.	Lobo, M.....	Manaos.
Henrique & Leal.....	Rua São Pedro 52, Rio de Janeiro; Rua Jose Bonifacio 36, São Paulo.	Lohner, F. A.....	Rua Riachuela 87, Rio de Janeiro.
Hesslein, Henrique, & Sergel.....	Cuyaba.	Lopes, P., & Co.....	Santos.
Hipp, Guillermo.....	Rua d' Hospicio 29, Rio de Janeiro.	Luce, Guilhermo Adolfo.....	Rua 7 de Setembro 100, Porto Alegre.
Hobbing, Englebert.....	Marechal Floriano 62, Porto Alegre.	Luckhaus & Co.....	Rua General Camara 67, Rio de Janeiro.
Hoepcke, Carl, & Co.....	Florianapolis and Santa Catharina.	Ludweg e Irmaos.....	Rua dos Andrades, Porto Alegre.
Hoepcke, Empreza.....	Florianapolis and Santa Catharina.	Macedo, Alvaro.....	Rua San Pedro 52 and Caixa Postal 1177, Rio de Janeiro.
Hoffman, Rudol' W. H.....	Para.	Machado, Mello & Co.....	Rio de Janeiro.
Holmberg, Bech & Co.....	Rio de Janeiro.	Magnus, James, & Co.....	Rua São Pedro 96, Rio de Janeiro.
Holzborn, Ernesto.....	Rua das Princezas, Bahia.	Mannesmann (Ltd.), Sociedad Tubos.....	Rua do Rosario 64, Rio de Janeiro.
Holzgrave, Wilhelm.....	Bahia.	Marimbo & Bacellur.....	Rio de Janeiro.
Huland, Oscar & Co.....	Ceara.	Marino, Ernesto & Co.....	São Paulo.
Industria Quimica Argentina.....	Rio Grande do Sul.	Mayer, Siegfried.....	Rua da Quitanda 123, Rio de Janeiro.
Israel, Simon, & Co.....	Rua General Camara 23, Rio de Janeiro.	Meister & Co.....	Bahia.
Issler, Jello, jr.....	São Paulo.	Metzler, Hugo.....	Porto Alegre.
Jacobsen, S.....	Rua Santo Antonio 56, Santos.	Meyer, Alfredo.....	Rio de Janeiro.
Jannowitz, Waile & Co.....	Rua de Candelaria 49, San Pedro 31, Rio de Janeiro; and São Paulo.	Meyer, Harold.....	Bahia.
Jantsch, Aurelio & Co.....	Cofumba.	Meyer Irmaos & Co.....	Rua Sete de Setembro 175 and 177, Porto Alegre.
Jericke, H.....	Rio de Janeiro.	Miranda, Agenor.....	Rua Senador Nabuco 19, Rio de Janeiro.
Jessen, Hendrik.....	Rio de Janeiro.	Moeller, H., Theo.....	Rua Voluntarios da Patria 32, Porto Alegre.
Joinville Zeitung.....	Joinville.	Montero de Barros & Co.....	Santos.
Jordon, Gorken & Co.....	São Francisco do Sul.	"Município".....	São Francisco do Sul.
Josephson, Constans.....	Porto Alegre.	Naschold, Carlos.....	Vol da Patria 156, Porto Alegre.
Kanitz, Hermann.....	Rio de Janeiro.	"Nue Deutsche Zeitung".....	Pelotas.
Karp, Henry.....	Rio de Janeiro.	Nobrega, Sergis Augusto.....	Joinville and Santa Catharina.
Kleruan, Cyril F.....	Manaos, Belem, Para.	Noronha, Carlos de.....	Rua General Camara 22, Rio de Janeiro.
Klaussner & Co. (Casa Ex-voval).....	Rua Direita 38b and Caixa Postal 112, São Paulo.	Nossack & Co.....	Rua Frei Gaspar 22, Santos.
Knobloch, Gustavo.....	São Paulo.	"A Noticia".....	Santos.
Koch, Otto.....	São Paulo.	"No Iaes".....	Stajahy.
Kohn, Isidoro E., & Co.....	Rua da Alandega 112, Rio de Janeiro.	Novita, J., & Amado.....	Santos.
Kolonie Zeitung. (See Boehm, Otto.)		Ohl, Paul (partner of Seligmann & Co.).....	Para.
Kopinsky, Joseph.....	Rua São Paulo 52, Rio de Janeiro.	Ohlizer & Co.....	Manaos.
Krahle & Co.....	Rua dos Andrades 497, Porto Alegre.	Oliveira, Sebastino Pereira de.....	Rio de Janeiro.
Krans (Wachtel Marxon & Co.)	Porto Alegre.	Oliveira, Eduardo.....	Santos.
Kroncke, Alfred.....	Parahyba do Norte.	Oliveira & Co.....	Santos.
Kroncke & Co.....	Parahyba do Norte.	Ornstein & Co.....	Rua São Pedro 9, Rio de Janeiro.
"Labor".....	Lagunao.	Osantos, Albert.....	Bahia.
		Ottens, K. J.....	Bahia.
		Overbeck, W.....	Rua das Princezas, Bahia.
		Pegas, Fructuoso.....	Rio Grande do Sul.
		Pereira, Alfredo Martins.....	Manaos.

BRAZIL—Continued.

Pereira, F., & Co.	Rio de Janeiro.	Schwartzberger, Alfredo	São Paulo.
Perez, Erich	Rio de Janeiro.	Segreda, Luis	Rio de Janeiro.
Peters, Martin Frederick Wilhelm	Belém and Para.	Seligmann & Co.	Para.
Peters, W.	Rua Municipal 1480150 Manaus.	Sempco & Co.	Manaos.
Petersen, Adolf & Co.	Rua do Apollo 36, Pernambuco.	Siemens-Schuckert Werke	Rio de Janeiro, Bahia, Porto Alegre, and São Paulo.
Pfeil & Klein-Ellkuth, Count.	Bahia.	Silva, Antonio Carlos de	Caixa 105, São Paulo.
Pintsch (Julius) Aktiengesellschaft	Rua São Pedro 9, Rio de Janeiro.	Silva (Da) Domingos & Co.	Rua São Bento 28a, São Paulo.
Pohlmann & Co.	Pernambuco and Maccio.	Silva, Rebelro, & Co.	Rio de Janeiro.
"Polls O Dea"	Florianopolis.	Silveira, Joas de Souza	Joinville.
Portella Filho, Hermengildo	Rua Marquez Olin-da 4, Pernambuco.	Simoes, Anselmo & Co.	Rio de Janeiro.
Prejawa & Co.	Rua da Alfandega 70, Rio de Janeiro.	Simon, Feliciano	Corumba.
Raniger, H.	Manaos.	Sinjen, M. & Co.	Nova Friburgo, Rio de Janeiro.
Rebecchi, R., & Co.	Rio de Janeiro.	Sinner, Alfredo	Rio de Janeiro and Santos.
Reguly, Alexander	Porto Alegre.	Smith, Kessler & Panke (Casa Kosmos)	Rua Direita 12, São Paulo and Santos.
Reichenbach, Gustavo	São Paulo and Santos.	Smith, Charles	Rua Direita 12, São Paulo.
Reinhardt, Cesar	Becco do Rosario and Rua 24 de Maio 14, Porto Alegre.	Sociedad Anonyma "Deutsche Tageblatt."	Rio de Janeiro.
Richter, Alfredo	São Paulo.	Sociedad Tubos Mannesmann (Ltd.)	Rua do Rosario 64, Rio de Janeiro.
Richter, Rudolpho A.	São Paulo.	Societe d' Entreprises Gen- erales An Brisil.	Rio de Janeiro.
Ribeiro Chaves, Gualtero, Para	Para.	Steinberg, Meyer & Co.	Avenida Rio Branco 65, Rio de Janeiro and São Paulo.
Ribeiro, Trajano (Jordon Ger- ken & Co.)	San Francisco de Sul.	Sosa, Domingo	San Salvador.
Reickmann & Co.	Rua Boa Vista 42, São Paulo.	Sotto-Maier, B. G., & Co.	São Paulo.
Rodrigues, Carlos	Para and Bahia.	Steinbach, Hans	Bahia.
Rodrigues Ferreira & Co.	Rio de Janeiro.	Steinman, Emilio	Manaos.
Rosenhain, Elisabetha Cellote	São Paulo.	Steinmann, H.	Manaos.
Rosenhain, Henrique	São Paulo.	Stoky, Jorge F.	Rua Christovao Colombo 18, Rio de Janeiro.
Rothschild & Co.	Rua 15 de Novembro 31, São Paulo.	Stolz, Hermann & Co.	Avenida Central 66-74 (Rio Branco 66-74), Rio de Janeiro; Praça da Republica, Santos; Rua Alvares Penteado 12; Sao Paulo; Pernambuco.
Ruiz, Alego	Florianopolis.	Strassberger, E., & Co.	Manaos.
Salemi & Arra	Rua Santa Ephi- genia 134, São Paulo.	Stupakoff, Otto	São Paulo.
Sandgren, A. J.	Rio de Janeiro.	Stupakoff & Co.	Rua São Bento 7, São Paulo.
Schalble & Kanitz	Rua Jose Bonifacio 40, São Paulo; Rua São Pedro 52, Rio de Janeiro.	Suerdieck & Co.	Rua das Princesas, Bahia.
Scheyer, Otto	Rua General Cam- ara 23, Rio de Janeiro.	Sul-Americana de Electric- idade (Companhia) A. E. G.	56, Rio de Janeiro.
Schlesinger & Co.	Rua da Alfandega 103, Rio de Janeiro.	Thomas, Carlos A., & Co.	Rua dos Ourives 85, Rio de Janeiro.
Schmidt, Abdo & Co.	Rio de Janeiro.	Trinks, Peter, & Co.	Rua do Sants 38, Santos.
Schmidt, Francisco	Santos.	Trommel, A., & Co.	Praça Telles 11, Rua Alvares Penteado, Santos; São Paulo.
Schmidt & Co. (Casa Rosen- hain)	Rua São Bento 60, São Paulo.	Turnauer & Machado	Rua 13 de Maio, Rio de Janeiro.
Schmidt, Trost & Co.	Rua Santo Antonio 5, Santos; Rua Alvares Penteado and Caixa 153, São Paulo.	"Der Urwald Hotel"	Blumensau.
Schneider, Carl (Casa do Aco)	Rua do Principe, Joinville, Sta. Catharina.	Vasconcellos, C., & Co.	Praça da Republica 87, Santos.
Schneider, Carlos F.	Rio Grande do Sul.	Vieria de Mello, Francisco	Bahia.
Schoenn, Roberto & Co.	Rua Quitanda 147, Rio de Janeiro.	Vieria, Luis	Rio de Janeiro.
Scholz, Waldemar	Manaos.	Vieria, Francisco Salles	Manaos.
Schott, Adolf	Rio de Janeiro.	Vianna, Cesar	Rio de Janeiro.
Schrader, Julius	Rio de Janeiro and São Paulo.	Vianna, Silva	Para.
Schroeder, J.	Porto Alegre.	Voelcker, Luis, & Co.	Rua dos Andrades 332, Porto Alegre.
Schroeter & Co.	Rua 7 de Setembro, Porto Alegre.	Wachtel, Marzen & Co.	Rio Grande do Sul.
Schwartz, Eduardo, or E. J. Joinville and Sta. Catharina.	Joinville and Sta. Catharina.	Wachneldt, Bertholdo	Avenida Rio Branco 12 and 50 and Caixa de Correo 1222, Rio de Janeiro.
Schwartz & Co., or Eduardo J. Schwartz & Co. (Gazetta do Commercio).	Joinville and Sta. Catharina.	Wagner, Schädlich & Co. (Casa Santos and São Paulo).	São Paulo.
Schwartz, Eduardo J., & Co. (See Schwartz, Eduardo.)	Joinville and Sta. Catharina.		
Schwartz, E. J., & Co. (See Schwartz, Eduardo.)	Joinville and Sta. Catharina.		

BRAZIL—Continued.

Warnecke, Hermann & Co.....	Rua Direita 9, São Paulo.	Wisendordf, Max.....	Santos.
Weissflog, Alfredo (of Weiss- flog Bros.).	Rua Maranhao 21, São Paulo.	Witte, Paul.....	Rio de Janeiro.
Weissflog.....	Rua Libero Badaro 70, São Paulo.	Wittrock, Gustav.....	Pernambuco.
Weiszflog, Max.....	São Paulo.	Woermke & Linan.....	Porto Alegre.
Westphalen Bach & Co.....	Rua Cons, Saraiva, Bahia.	Wobcken (Adolph) & Krebs.....	Rua da Quintanda 147, Rio de Janeiro.
Wiedeman & Gins.....	Rua do Comercio, Porto Alegre.	Woecke, Gustav.....	Porto Alegre.
Wille, Theodor, & Co.....	São Paulo, Rio de Janeiro, and Santos.	Zeising, John & R.....	Rua Visconde de Juhauma 56, Rio de Janeiro.
		Zsigmondy, Paulo, & Co.....	Caixa 1256 and Rua General Camara 97, Rio de Janeiro.

CHILE.

Abraldes, R.....	Concepcion.	Groothoff, A. & O.....	Iquique.
Agencia Maritima "Kosmos".....	Valparaiso.	Gunther & Co.....	Valparaiso.
Aguiar, Rudolph.....	Talcahuano.	Guttmann, Maurer & Co.....	Santiago.
Allgemeine Elektrizitäts Ge- sellschaft.....	Santiago and Valparaiso.	Havez, Eliseo.....	Antofagasta.
Alvaroz, Jose Reinaldo.....	Coquimbo.	Hawliceck, O.....	Valparaiso.
Anderson, Hans.....	Castilla 517, Santi- aco.	Henderson, Henry.....	Concepcion.
Armstrong, Isaac Enrique.....	Talcahuano.	Hepp, Gustavo.....	Valparaiso.
Arevala, Manuel.....	Coquimbo.	Herrera, Eduardo.....	Talcal.
Arrigorriaga, Saturnino.....	Santiago and Valparaiso.	Hucke, Hermanos.....	Valparaiso.
Bade, Walter.....	Valparaiso.	Hodge, Felipe.....	Talcal.
Bahre, Herbst & Co.....	Santiago.	Ibanez, Adolfo.....	Talcahuano.
Banco Aleman Transatlantico.		Inojosa, Maximo.....	Concepcion.
Banco De Chile y Alemanian.....	Valparaiso.	Klemesch, Guillermo.....	Santiago.
Banco Germanico de la Amer- ica del Sud.	Valparaiso.	Konigsborg.....	
Barrios, Francisco.....	Iquique.	Lange & Co.....	Valparaiso and Con- cepcion.
Bauer, Pablo.....	Antofagasta.	Lazo, Pedro Antonio.....	Talcahuano.
Bayer, Frederico & Co.....	Santiago.	Luck, Winkelhagen & Co.....	Valparaiso.
Bayre, Guillermo.....	Antofagasta.	Mass, Roberto & Co.....	Valparaiso.
Benedetti, Juan B.....	Valparaiso.	Medina, Domingo.....	Concepcion.
Benitez, Armando.....	Santiago.	Mesquida, M. Juan.....	Antofagasta.
Bermudez, Guillermo.....	Valparaiso.	Meyer, Johann.....	Punta Arenas.
Blackadder, Guillermo.....	Iquique.	Munoz, Francesco.....	Concepcion.
Bohlen, Max Von, Co.....	Valparaiso.	Neckelmann & Co.....	Valparaiso.
Bonder, Victor.....	Concepcion.	Nissen, Fischer & Co.....	Concepcion and San- tiago.
Brinckman & Co.....	Punta Arenas.	Oelckers, Carlos.....	Calbuco.
Cabezas, A., & Co.....	Antofagasta.	Oxigeno de Fabrico, A. Hoch- slotter.	Antofagasta.
Canelo, Nemesio.....	Iquique.	Paez, Carlos.....	Antofagasta and Valparaiso.
Canolla, Jose Isaac.....	Antofagasta.	Plesch, Julio B.....	Concepcion.
Carrasco, Justiniano.....	Valparaiso.	Rabenalt & Schmidtsdorf.....	Iquique.
Carstens, F., & Co.....	Concepcion and Val- divia.	Radi Constancia, E. & S.....	Santiago.
Castillo, Anel C.....	Coquimbo.	Rocher, Eduardo A.....	Valparaiso.
Compania Maritima Alemana.....	Valparaiso.	Roland Steamship Line.....	Valparaiso.
Compania Salitrea Alemana.....	Valparaiso.	Saavedra, Benard & Co.....	Santiago and Valparaiso.
Castro, B.....	Talcahuano.	Saavedra, Pedro.....	Concepcion.
Chaparra, Luis A.....	Iquique.	Saltpeterwerke Gildermeister Aktien Gesellschaft.....	Valparaiso.
Chavez, Eliseo.....	Antofagasta.	Sassee & Co.....	Concepcion.
Constancia Radi, E. & S.....	Santiago.	Schacht, Wyneken & Co.....	Valparaiso.
Contreras, Pablo.....	Valparaiso.	Schmidt & Wehrhahn.....	Valparaiso.
Curtze, Walter.....	Punta Arenas.	Schulz, Ricardo & Co.....	Coquimbo, Concep- cion, and Valpa- raiso.
Daube & Co.....	Concepcion, Santi- ago, and Valpa- raiso.	Siermens-Schuckert Co.....	Santiago.
Dauelsberg & Co.....	Antofagasta.	Silva, Alfredo.....	Antofagasta.
Dubrock & Co.....	Punta Arenas.	Sloman, H. B., & Co. (Com- pania Salitrea).	Tocopilla.
Durandean, Luciano.....	Antofagasta.	Smith, Chas. Dudley.....	Iquique.
Emmanuel, Victor, & Co.....	Santiago.	Smits & Assler.....	Talca.
Enriquez, Juan.....	Talcahuano.	Stubenrauch & Co.....	Punta Arenas.
Ecohar, Jose Ignacio.....	Santiago.	Szule & Raedler.....	Santiago.
Folsch & Co., H.....	Valparaiso.	Timmermann & Co.....	Valparaiso.
Fonck & Co.....	Valparaiso and San- tiago.	Trillo, Victor.....	Antofagasta.
Frey & Elkan.....	Punta Arenas.	Ureta, Oscar.....	Punta Arenas.
Faerber, Gustav.....	Valparaiso.	Valdez, Julio R.....	Iquique.
Gildemeister & Co.....	Iquique.	Vorwerk & Co.....	Valparaiso and San- tiago.
Gleisner, M., & Co.....	Santiago and Valpa- raiso.	Wanz, A., & Co.....	Santiago.
Gelder, Dr. G. de.....	Santiago.	Wertheim Soc. Exportadora (Ltd.).	
Goldtree, Lieber & Co.....	Sonsomate.		
Grisar, Max.....	Valparaiso.		

COLOMBIA.

Acero, Delfin.....	Cucuta.	Gomez Hermanos.....	Manisales.
Agencia Maritima Kosmos.....	Cucuta.	Grosser, F.....	Barranquilla.
Anez, Julio A., & Co.....	Cucuta.	Heilmann, Max & Co.....	Tumaco.
Arbini, Arturo.....	Barranquilla.	Held, A.....	Barranquilla.
Ardilla, Manuel.....	Tumaco.	Hollmann, Karl, & Co.....	Bogota.
Banco Aleman Antioqueno.....	Medellin.	Hollmann, H.....	Bogota.
Beck, Roberto.....	Bogota.	Hoz, P. de la.....	Barranquilla.
Beckmann & Co.....	Cucuta.	Hulsman, H.....	Medellin.
Berne, O., & Co.....	Barranquilla.	Hulsman & Reinecke.....	Medellin.
Bohmer & Lingen.....	Calli and T'aste.	Illera, Juan do Dios.....	Barranquilla.
Borne, A.....	Medellin and Mani sales.	Lindemayer, Heinrich.....	Cartagena.
Botica Alemana.....	Cucuta.	Loos, Pablo.....	Bucaramanga.
Breuer, Moller & Co.....	Barranquilla and Cucuta.	Lindemayer, Wiese & Co.....	Barranquilla.
Breyman, Wilhelm von, & Co. Calli.		Luckling, H. A.....	Cartagena.
Cabrane, Carlina.....	Buenaventura.	Martinez, Vincento.....	Cartagena.
Carvagat, Francisco.....	Orocul.	Medina, E.....	Barranquilla.
"El Comercio".....	Barranquilla.	Munoz, Miquel Angel.....	Calli.
Cornelius & Speidel.....	Orocul.	Nobmann & Co.....	Barranquilla.
Cortisoz, Correa & Co.....	Barranquilla.	Ramirez, Luis Alberto.....	Bucaramanga.
Credito Mercantil.....	Barranquilla.	"Rigolotto".....	Bucaramanga.
"La De'ensa" Nacional.....	Barranquilla.	Rosca, Louis.....	Calli.
Dissel, Van, Rode & Co.....	San Cristobal, Mara- caibo, and Cucuta.	Sanclemente, Ismael.....	Buenaventura and Calli.
"El Derecho".....	Barranquilla.	Siefken, Julio.....	Barranquilla.
Empresa Hanseatica.....	Barranquilla.	Sombr'ria la Pica-Pica.....	Sao Paulo.
Ehrmann, G. F.....	Barranquilla.	Stegmann, Arthur.....	Barranquilla.
Escobar, Augustin.....	Calli.	Strauss, Georg, & Co.....	Barranquilla.
Escobar & Co.....	Calli.	"Transocean".....	Bogota.
Fischer, Louis.....	Medellin.	Tricemabini, A. R.....	Barranquilla.
"Germania".....	Bogota.	Voelckmann, Gustav.....	Bucaramanga.
Gieseken, Ludwig, & Co.....	Barranquilla.	Wessels, Bernhard.....	Bucaramanga.
		Wilson Cook, W.....	Cucuta.

COSTA RICA.

Altschul, Alonzo.....	San Jose.	Knorr, Alfred Edgar.....	Members
Alvarado, F. J., & Co.....	Port Limon.	Vose de Eberhardt.....	of Edgar
Antigua Casa Francisco Wiebe.....	Trujillo.	Siebe, Walter.....	Knorr &
Assmann & Co., T.....	San Jose.	Koberg & Echandi.....	Co.
Camera, A.....	San Jose.		
Carranza, Jamie.....	San Jose.	Kruse, Luis.....	Port Limon.
Esquinal, Jamie.....	San Jose.	Martimer, Luis.....	San Jose.
La Eureka.....	San Jose.	Mieschel, Paul.....	San Jose.
Fabian, Victor.....	San Jose.	Mora & Olmo.....	San Jose.
Heinrichsdorf, Frederick.....	San Jose.	Niehaus, Wilhelm.....	San Jose.
Hubbe, O. J., successors.....	San Jose.	Recello Fernandez Guill, El Imparcial.....	San Jose.
Kayser, Walter W.....	San Jose.	Racello Fernandez Guill (?).....	
Knorr, Edgar, & Co.....	San Jose.	Rohrmoser, Francisco.....	Puntarenas.
Knorr, Juan Hijos.....	San Jose.	Roldan, Manuel.....	Puntarenas.
Knorr, Erik Oscar.....	San Jose.	Rothe, Mandel.....	San Jose.
Luthman, Federico.....	Employ- ees of Knorr, Erik Oscar.	Reim, Francisco Debo.....	San Jose.
Reimers, Ferdinand.....		Falar, Enrique.....	San Jose.
Chavas, Maximo.....		Schuster, Otto.....	San Jose.
Martin, Cirilo.....		Sliesky, Juan.....	San Jose.
Baranti, Jose.....		Steinvorth, W., & Hnos.....	Cartago.
Meinno, Arturo.....		Varas, Gabriel, & Co.....	San Jose.
Beer, Salina.....		Wahle, Carl Wolfgang.....	San Jose.
		Wiss, Felix.....	San Jose.
		Wiss, Oscar.....	San Jose.

CUBA.

Ballenilla, Daniel.....	Habana.	Pl, Manuel.....	Habana.
Bengochea, Amador.....	Cienfuegos.	Prasse, German.....	Habana.
Berndes & Co., J. F.....	Habana.	Reyneta, Manuel.....	Cienfuegos.
Castano, Nicolas.....	Habana.	Rintelen, Ricardo.....	Habana.
Compania Anonima Electro Alemana Cubana.....	Habana.	Rodriguez, German.....	Habana.
Eppinger, Albert.....	Habana.	Santamaria Saenz & Co.....	Habana.
Fout, Juan, & Co.....	Habana.	Sch val, Consuelo.....	Habana.
Garbade, T.....	Habana.	Sealer I I & Co.....	Habana.
Gutierrez, Juan.....	Habana.	Suarez, Francisco.....	Habana.
Mená, Pedro G.....	Habana.	Sastro e Hijo.....	Habana.
Michaelsen & Prasse.....	Habana.	Tillmann, M., & Co.....	Habana.
More, J. Garcia.....	Habana.	Toennies, H.....	Habana.
Paetzold, M. & Co.....	Habana.	Uppmann, H., & Co.....	Habana.
		Zabrida, Rios & Co.....	Habana.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC.

Hamal, F. Wolff.....	Santiago.	Valdez, Enrique.....	San Pedro de Ma-
Hohlt & Co.....	coris.		coris.
Lembecke, F., & Co.....	Monte Christi.	Van Kampen, Schumacher &	San Pedro de Ma-
Quentin, C., & Co.....	La Romana.	Co.....	coris.
Schulze, W.....	Santiago.		

ECUADOR.

Arce, Pedro Pablo M.....	Guayaquil.	Lopez, Romulo G.....	Guayaquil.
Baldu, Manuel.....	Bahia de Caraquez.	Luders, Carlos W.....	Guayaquil.
Balde, Pedro A.....	Guayaquil.	Orenstein & Koppel.....	Quito.
Barberan, N. G. V.....	Guayaquil.	Otte, Carlos & Co.....	Manta.
Buchwald, Juan Otto von.....	Quito.	Pimental, Juan L.....	Guayaquil.
Casseneff & Co.....	Guayaquil.	Poppe, Adolfo.....	Guayaquil and
Collat, Mario.....	Guayaquil.		Quito.
Dapelo, Jose.....	Guayaquil.	Reimers, Edgar.....	Quito.
Delgado, Simon.....	Guayaquil.	Rickert & Co.....	Guayaquil.
Donner & Blackett.....	Manta.	Rodriguez, Carlos.....	Bahia.
Esmeraldas Handels Gesell-		Ruperti, Emilio.....	Jipijappa.
schaft.....	Esmeraldas.	Solis, Camilo & Co.....	Canoa.
Gieschen, C.....	Manta.	Tagua Handels Gesellschaft.....	Manta, Esmeraldas,
Guzman, L. E. Hijos.....	Guayaquil.		and Bahia de
Haas, M.....	Esmeraldas.		Caraquez.
Harnack, H.....	Bahia de Caraquez.	Tijon, Julio.....	Esmeraldas.
Hiera, Cesar A. del.....	Esmeraldas.	Tresselt, W.....	Bahia de Caraquez.
Jungnickel & Loose.....	Guayaquil.	Webber, Carlos.....	Quito.
Jungnickel, W.....	Guayaquil.	Yauch, T.....	Esmeraldas.
Kruger & Co.....	Guayaquil.	Zambrano, Carlos.....	Bahia de Caraquez.

GUATEMALA.

Dieseldorf & Co.....	Coban.	Lacisz & Co.....	Quezaltenango.
Empresa Electrica del Sur.....	Guatemala City.	Lisser, J., & Co.....	Guatemala.
Empresa Electric Light &		Niederer, C.....	Guatemala City.
Power Co.....	Guatemala City.	Nottebohm & Co.....	Guatemala City.
Gorlach, Fed.....	Guatemala City.	Obst, Maximo.....	Guatemala City.
Giesemann, Ad., & Co.....	Guatemala City.	Rodriguez, Basilio.....	Quezaltenango.
Henkel & Co.....	Malacatan.	Sapper, R.....	Guatemala City.
Koper & Bernholt.....	Quezaltenango and	Schlubach, Dauch & Co.....	Guatemala City.
	Guatemala.	Topke & Co.....	Guatemala City.
Koper, Federico & Co.....	Guatemala City.	Zengel & Co.....	Guatemala City.

HAITI.

Bouch, William.....	Les Cayes.	Preetzmann-Aggerholm.....	Port-au-Prince.
Belot, J.....	St. Marc.	Reinbold, Hermann & Co.....	Port-au-Prince, St.
Blicker, Otto.....	Port-au-Prince.		Marc, Petit
Damberille, H.....	Gonaives.		Goave, Gonaives,
Dehoux, L.....	Petit Goave.		Mirogoane.
De Meza, P.....	St. Marc.	Ramponneau, G.....	Haiti.
Gagernon, E.....	Petit Goave.	Rodrigues, E.....	Gonaives.
Jacobsen, John & Co.....	Les Cayes.	Schutt, G. E.....	Cape Haiti.
Jurgensen & Co.....	St. Marc.	Von Seckendorf, Arthur & Co.....	Jacmel.
Jurgensen, Hugo & Co.....	St. Marc.	Tischer & Co.....	Cape Haiti.
Lutz, E., & Co.....	Cape Haiti.	Valdez, Enrique.....	San Pedro de Ma-
Munchmeyer, H., & Co.....	Les Cayes, Jeremie.		ons.
Munchmeyer, Neveu & Co.....	Jacmel.	Van Kampen, Schumacher & Co.....	San Pedro de Ma-
Olafsson, Lucas & Co.....	Port-au-Prince.		ons.
	Petit Goave,		
	Mirogoane, St.		
	Marc.		

HONDURAS.

Abadie Bros.....	Amapala.	Kohncke, Gathman & Co.....	Amapala.
Andoine, George.....	Puerto Conteo.	Maier, P., & Co.....	Puerto Cortes.
Aybar, J. A.....	Puerto Conteo.	Majia, Tomas.....	Sabana Grande.
Bematon & Cia.....	Puerto Cortes.	Mendoza, Juan.....	San Marcus de
Castillo, B.....	Jutiupla.		Colon.
Corneken, N.....	Tegucigalpa.	Mendoza, Liberato.....	Comayagudo.
Debbe, Guilbermo.....	Tegucigalpa.	Peterson, Ernesto.....	Tegucigalpa.
Debbe, Wilhelm.....	Tegucigalpa.	Rossner, J., & Co.....	Amapala.
Dreschel, D.....	Amapala.	Siercke, Ernesto.....	Tegucigalpa.
Dreschel Alfonso.....	Tegucigalpa.	Siercke, Francisco.....	Choluteca.
Espinosa.....	Tegucigalpa.	Stichle, Louis.....	Amapala.
Funes, Ramon.....	San Juanctio.	Veit, Wilhelm.....	Tegucigalpa.
Gastel, H. y Hijo.....	San Juanctio.	Walther, Gustav.....	Tegucigalpa.
Kohncke, Teodoro & Co.....	Amapala.	Withnauer, Teodoro.....	Tegucigalpa.

MEXICO.

Abe's, Hermanos.....	Mexico City.	Dubbits, N. M.....	Mexico City.
Aberg, O. H.....	Mexico City.	Durine & Co.....	Vera Cruz.
Agencia Commercial y Mar- itima.....	Tampico.	Ebard & Cia.....	Mexico City.
Albert & Cia.....	Mexico City.	Eberstadt, E.....	Mexico City.
Allgemeine Elektrizitäts Gesell- schaft.....	Mexico City.	Electromotor, S. A.....	Mexico City.
Amtmann.....	Mexico City.	El Demócrata.....	Mexico City.
Angulano.....	Guadalajara.	Eversbusch, Richard.....	Tampico.
Aragón & Sobrino.....	Vera Cruz.	Fabricas Apolo.....	Monterey.
Arrieta, Arturo.....	Vera Cruz.	Fabrica de Acidos la Vega.....	Mexico City.
Bach, S.....	Mexico City.	Fahrholz, William.....	Triunfo.
Bachanauer & Co.....	Torreón.	Faller (J. Craseman Sucrs.).....	Merida.
Bachman & Co.....	Mexico City.	Ferretería "La Paloma" Sen. C.....	Tampico.
Barbringer, Charles.....	Mexico City.	Fishbaum, Max.....	Chihuahua.
Banco Germanico de la Amer- ica del Sur.....	Mexico City.	Flack & Son.....	Mexico City.
Banco Mexicano de Comercio y Industria.....	Mexico City.	Flores, Julian.....	Mexico City.
Bannister.....	Vera Cruz.	Flottmann & Co.....	Mexico City.
Basanes, Pedro.....	Vera Cruz.	Forsbach, Guillermo.....	Vera Cruz.
Bauer, Carlos.....	Mexico City.	Froitzheim & Co.....	Laredo.
Be'den Bros.....	Monterey.	Galsmon, Fernando.....	Mexico City.
Berger, Leon.....	Mexico City.	Galler, Maurice.....	Merida.
Berger, S.....	Mexico City.	Gamer & Co.....	Mexico City.
Bielefeld, Otto.....	Chihuahua.	Gresemann & Co.....	Tapachula.
Birk, Mich.....	Mexico City.	Geiman American Hotel.....	Mexico City.
Bittraff & Mendila.....	Mexico City.	Gertz, Cornelio.....	Mexico City and Vera Cruz.
Blancas, S., & Bros.....	Jaurez.	Gibbs, W. G.....	Chihuahua.
Bley, Herman's.....	Hermosillo.	Giffendig, Edg.....	Mexico City.
Blumenkow, Julio.....	Mexico City.	Gluehker, Francisco.....	Merida.
Blume & Wienan.....	Tampico.	Gluck.....	Mexico City.
Bode & Rosenstein.....	Mexico City.	Gluck, J.....	Mexico City.
Boesch, Guillermo.....	Orizaba.	Goeldner, Ernest.....	Chihuahua.
Bouigny & Schmidt Sucrs.....	Mexico City.	Gonzales, Ismael.....	Merida.
Bremer, R. A. Co.....	Monterey.	Grassman & Co.....	Mexico City.
Brockmann G.....	Mexico City.	Gran, Pedro.....	Vera Cruz.
Brosting, Alfonso.....	Vera Cruz.	Gregoire, Fernando.....	Mazatlan.
Bruggemon & Co.....	Mexico City.	Grether & Co., Ernest.....	Mexico City.
Bubard & Bourlon.....	Mexico City.	Grosset, Augustin.....	Mexico City.
Buahanan & Co.....	Torreón.	Grunnberger, I. Odolfo.....	Mexico City.
Bucher Hnos.....	Mexico City.	Harinera del Norte Co.....	San Blas, Nuevas.
Buchman & Cia.....	Torreón.	Guzman, Z.....	Monterey.
Bulinso.....	Nogales.	Hansen & Deake.....	Guadalupe.
Bunsow, Guillermo.....	Chihuahua.	Horfrush & Co.....	Mexico City.
Bustamente, Antonio & Hijos.....	Mazatlan.	Harms, Hugo.....	Mexico City.
Busing, G., & Cia Sucrs.....	Vera Cruz.	Hart & Chapeliner.....	Mexico City.
Bustillos, Jose & Hijos.....	Mexico City.	Hartzheim, W.....	Mexico City.
Calvo & Fernandez.....	Vera Cruz.	Hassey, Alfredo.....	Mexico City.
Candanedo, Manuel.....	Puerto.	Hassey, Eduardo.....	Mexico City.
Casa Alemana de Musicam.....	Mexico City.	Hach, Julio.....	Mexico City.
Cerverceria Central.....	Mexico City.	Haus, G.....	Mazatlan.
Cerverceria del Pacifico.....	Mazatlan.	Hauser, Enrique.....	Vera Cruz.
Christlieb & Muhlhauser.....	Mexico City.	Heinrichs, G.....	Mexico City.
Christlieb, Alfredo.....	Mexico City.	Henonm, Martin.....	Manzanillo.
Christlein & Rubke.....	Mexico City.	Hering, Carlos.....	Mexico City.
"Club Aleman".....	Mexico City.	Hermann, W. E.....	Mexico City.
Club Hipico Aleman.....	Mexico City.	Hernandez, J.....	Guadalajara.
Cohen, Max.....	Guaymas.	Heer & Co.....	Mexico City.
Collignon, Julio.....	Guadalajara.	Heyman-Everbush & Co.....	Tampico.
Cia Commercial.....	Nogales.	Heyman, Carl.....	Tampico.
Compania Ferretera de Tam- pico.....	Tampico.	Higgin Perez & Cia.....	Manzanillo.
Compania Ferretera Mexicana Mexico City. S. A.....	Mexico City.	Hildebrandt.....	Tepic.
Compania Manufactura de Monterey. Cerillos.....	Monterey.	Himbock, G.....	Mazatlan.
Compania Petrolera Germano Mexicana S. A.....	Mexico City.	Hinselmann, F.....	Mexico City.
Concordia, Ad. de, & Anexas.....	Pochutla.	Hirselberg, Carlos.....	Mexico City.
La Constancia.....	Guaymas.	Hoffmann, Carlos C.....	Mexico City.
Cram, C.....	Monterey.	Hoffmann, Frederico.....	Mexico City.
Cram, J. & Co.....	Monterey.	Hoffmann, Pinther & Bas- warch.....	Mexico City.
Crasemann, J. Sucrs.....	Progreso.	Holek & Co., C.....	Monterey.
Cremier Hnos. & Co.....	Mexico City.	Holzheim, Jarge.....	Vera Cruz.
Dahlhaus, E.....	Mexico City.	Hommel, Emilio.....	Mexico City.
Dasse, Juan & Co.....	Mexico City.	Huerta, Robledo.....	Vera Cruz.
Delcampo, Q. M.....	Guadalajara.	Huerta, Carlos.....	Mexico City.
Deiks, H. D.....	Mexico City.	Ibarra, Carlos.....	Guadalajara.
Delius Co.....	Tepic.	Ibarra, Carlos.....	Guaymas.
Diaz, Augustin R.....	Vera Cruz.	Ibarra & Co.....	Guaymas.
Diner Hnos.....	Mexico City.	Isaak, Alberto.....	Tampico.
Dirks, W.....	Merida.	Isaak Hotel.....	Mexico City.
Dittmer, C.....	Mexico City.	Jaedcke, Juan.....	Mexico City.
Dosse, Juan, & Co.....	Mexico City.	Johannsen Feix Co.....	Mexico City.
Dreinhäfer, J. F.....	Mexico City.	Julard & Co.....	Mexico City.
Dubernard (tailor).....	Mexico City.	Kaiser, Juan, Sucrs.....	Guadalajara.
		Kentzler, Emilio.....	Mexico City.
		Koppler & Marquet.....	Mexico City.
		Kessel, Max.....	Mexico City.
		Ketelsen & Degetan.....	Chihuahua.
		Kiewek & Co., J. J.....	Mexico City.
		Klein, Carlos.....	Mexico City.

MEXICO—Continued.

Klein & Ruentsch.....	Mexico City.	Reimers, Hermanos.....	Zacatecas.
Klentsch, Federico.....	Mexico City.	Remecke, Juan.....	Macinas, Mexico City.
Klodz & Co.....	Mexico City.	Riguclme, Pedro.....	Mexico.
Koch, Edgar.....	Parral.	Rodriguez, Manuel Salido.....	Mazatlan.
Kohn, Carlos.....	Mexico City.	Roeder, F.....	Mexico City.
Koppel, A.....	Mexico City.	Roemer, Federico, & Cia.....	Cinco de Mayo, Mexico.
Korff Honsberg & Co.....	Mexico City.	Roever, L.....	Mexico City.
Korn, Joseph.....	Moctezuma.	Roever, Pablo E.....	Mexico City.
Korting Gebr. Aktiengesellschaft.....	Mexico City.	Rubioek, Ottokar.....	Mexico City.
Kartun & Hess.....	Topilulapa.	Ruiz Hnos, J. J.....	Mexico City.
Kartun Hermanos.....	Mumunle.	Safrich, Antonio.....	Mexico City.
Kriegsmann, H.....	Chihuahua.	Sarabia, Jesus.....	Mazatlan.
Kriegsmann & Neumann.....	Chihuahua.	Saenger, M.....	San Juan de Letran.
Kronche & Ferado.....	Mexico City.	Scheufler, Fererster.....	Mexico City.
Kuri Primos Sucs.....	Mexico City.	Schilling, F.....	Vera Cruz.
Lark & Co., Julian.....	Torreón.	Schlattmann, H. F.....	Mexico City.
La Electrica.....	Mexico City.	Schmarze & Hahne.....	Mexico City.
Lahse, Federico.....	Mexico City.	Schmidt, Carlos A.....	Mexico City.
Lambrechts, Robert.....	Mexico City.	Schmidt, Otto.....	Mexico City.
Lamelin, B.....	Mexico City.	Schmidt, Reimers & Cia.....	Mexico City.
Lammers, German.....	Mexico City.	Schneider, B.....	Mexico City.
Langmaach Hnos.....	Mexico City.	Schommer, Rodolfo.....	Durango.
Lanstroth.....	Monterey.	Schondube, Enrique.....	Mexico City.
La Defensa.....	Mexico City.	Schrieber & Cia, sucs.....	Mexico City.
"La Paloma".....	Tampico.	Schubach, M. J.....	Mexico City.
Lopan, George.....	Chihuahua.	Schuckertmerke, Siemens.....	Guadalajara.
Lehmann & Co.....	Mexico City.	Schulz, Alfredo.....	Mexico City.
Lehmer & Disborn.....	Mexico City.	Schumann, Guillermo.....	Vera Cruz.
Leitner, George Helmuth.....	Mumunil.	Schweickhardt, Frederick.....	Valtahermosa.
Lentz, Federico.....	Mexico City.	Sebastian, R.....	Vera Cruz.
Lentay, Antonio.....	Mexico City.	Seckback & Co.....	Mexico City.
Levin, C.....	Mexico City.	Segura, Ricardo V.....	Orizaba.
Levy, Gustav.....	Monterey.	Selmerth, Pablo.....	Mexico City.
Levy, J.....	Mexico City.	Sendel & Co.....	Mexico City.
Levy, Manuel.....	Mexico City.	Schafer, sucs, Enrique G.....	Mexico City.
Leycegin, Felix.....	Vera Cruz.	Sieber & Co.....	Saltillo.
Lichte, Alberto.....	Mexico City.	Siemens & Halske.....	Mexico City.
Linga, C. R. & Co.....	Mazatlan.	Siemens-Schuckertwerke.....	Mexico City.
Linas, Rafael Moreno.....	Vera Cruz.	Sierra, R. & Hnos. sucs.....	Vera Cruz.
Lohse y Cia.....	Mexico City.	"Arcolis".....	
Lopez, Mannel.....	Mexico City.	Siordia, Eduardo.....	Mazatlan.
Lubek, Rudolph von.....	Vera Cruz.	Sogel Hnos.....	Mexico City.
Luekhaus, Arthur.....	Mexico City.	Solrino.....	Vera Cruz.
Lueders & Cia.....	Mexico City.	Sommer, Hermann & Co.....	Mexico City.
Lueders, George & Co.....	Mexico City.	Sommer, Sucs.....	Mexico City.
Lutteroth, Carlos.....	Mexico City.	Stacke, Pablo.....	Vera Cruz.
Marquard, Hugo.....	Mexico City.	Stallforth Bros.....	Parral.
Martens, Enrique.....	Vera Cruz.	Stein, Roberto & Co.....	Mazatlan.
Martinez, Rafael.....	Mexico City.	Stettner, Sucs.....	Mexico City.
Marx, A.....	Mexico City.	Steindel, Max.....	Uruguay.
May Hermond.....	Hermosillo.	Stoll, Adolph.....	Manzanillo.
Masson, J. G.....	Mexico City.	Studt, F.....	Mexico City.
Melber & Cia.....	Mexico City.	Talleres & Funchion "Tampico" S. A.....	Tampico.
Melchers Sucs.....	Mazatlan.	Theiner Junowitzer & Co.....	Mexico City.
Meyer, Pedro.....	Mexico City.	Trost, Alberto.....	Guadalajara.
Meyer & Huerta.....	Mexico City.	Unna, Jorge.....	San Luis Potosi.
Monte Carlo.....	Mexico City.	Uranga, Radolfo.....	Juarez.
Motz & Co.....	Mexico City.	Urriolagoitia, Guillermo.....	Mazatlan.
Mueller, Victor y Hermanos.....	Tampico.	Valdes, Hnos.....	Vera Cruz.
Muller Hnos.....	Mexico City.	Valdez Bros.....	Vera Cruz.
Neumann & Co.....	Mexico City.	Valencia & Garza.....	Torreón.
Niekler, Athan.....	Mexico City.	Varela, R.....	Vera Cruz.
Norwald, Levi.....	Chihuahua.	Wagner, A. & Leven Sucs.....	Guadalajara.
Nyssen, Rafael, & Co.....	Mexico City.	Walther, Adalberto.....	Torreón.
Ochoa, Isidoro, & Cia.....	Vera Cruz.	Weber, Leopoldo, & Cia.....	Mexico City.
Oelrich, Gustavo.....	Mexico City.	Wehr, Henry.....	Vera Cruz.
Olsalde & Co.....	Mexico City.	Weinzorn & Koeppe.....	Mexico City.
Orenstein, Arthur Koppel Co.....	Mexico City.	Weiskopf, Victor, & Co.....	Mexico City.
Ortiz, Carlos.....	Mexico City.	Welz & Co.....	Mexico City.
Otto, S.....	Mexico City.	Wentzel, Luis.....	Mexico City.
Otto & Arroz.....	Mexico City.	Wirth & Cia.....	Mexico City.
Pabst, F. W.....	Mexico City.	Wohler, Bartning Sucs.....	Mazatlan.
Pacific Hide Co.....	Mazatlan.	Wolf, Leon.....	Mexico City.
Pagharch, Otto.....	Mexico City.	Wolffvitz, Max & Arthur.....	Mexico City.
Paulsen, Ernesto.....	Guadalajara.	Wood, H. J.....	Nogales.
Paulsen & Cia.....	Guadalajara.	Worn & Co.....	Mexico City.
Perez, Manuel Rodriguez.....	Vera Cruz.	Weidt, Carlos.....	Mexico City.
Pertzel, P. A. G.....	Mexico City.	Zaldo Hnos.....	Vera Cruz.
Peters, Guillermo & Co.....	Torreón.	Ziehl, Florintino.....	Chihuahua.
Pless, Herman.....	Chihuahua.	Zolly, Juan.....	Mexico City.
Rademacher, Muller & Co.....	Guaymas.	Zumthor & Froilau.....	Mexico City.
Ramirez & Urzua.....	Guadalajara.		
Ramos, Diego.....	Papantla.		

NICARAGUA.

Bahlcke, Julio C.....Managua.
 Balaarte (newspaper).....Managua.
 Giebler, Hermann.....Managua.
 El Imparcial La Tribuna.....Managua.
 Independiente.....Managua.
 Lehmann, R. & Co.....Cabo Gracias.

Nicaragua Commercial & Log-
 ging Co.....Prinzapolka.
 La Moticia (newspaper).....Managua.
 Tiff, J. R. E., & Co.....Managua.
 Weberseitz, Carlos.....Managua.

PANAMA.

Dzulik, Augusto.....Panama.
 Frieso, Carl.....Panama.
 Heinrichsdorff, F.....Cristobal.
 Henriquez, H. J. C.....Manhu.
 Kohpecke, Auturo.....Panama.

Lutz, Richard.....Panama.
 Sange.....Panama.
 Smit, John.....Colon.
 Tolentino & De Lemos.....Panama.
 Troste.....Panama.

PARAGUAY.

Berg, Ricardo.....Asuncion.
 Eisenlohr, William.....Asuncion.
 Ferreteria Alemana.....Asuncion.
 Ferreteria Universal.....Asuncion.
 Glusich & Co.....Asuncion.

Honsberg, Spier & Co.....Asuncion.
 Huttemann, Hermann.....Asuncion.
 Rein, F.....Asuncion.
 Staudt & Co.....Asuncion.
 Spier, German.....Asuncion.

PERU.

Agencia Maritima "Kosmos".....Callao.
 Arana, Eduardo.....Mollendo.
 Arce, Don Jose Elisos.....Arequipa.
 Baigorria, Luis F.....Chiclayo.
 Banco Aleman Transatlantico.....
 Bast, Rodolfo.....Piura.
 Benavides, Aurelio.....Mollendo.
 Benites, Jose T.....Lima.
 Brahm & Co.....Lima.
 Brandes, Guillermo.....Lima.
 Bustamante, Manuel J.....Mollendo.
 Calderon, Miguel E.....Sullana.
 Camino, Glicerio.....Lima.
 Casa Grande Zuckerplantagen
 Aktien Gesellschaft.....Trujillo.
 Chappul, Manuel.....Callao.
 Corter, Ramon G.....Pacasmayo.
 Cuculieván, Juan.....Chiclayo.
 Dalmau, Juan.....Salaverry.
 Dauelsberg & Co.....Mollendo.
 Donsk, Herman L.....Lima.
 Dolmann & Einfeldt.....Lima.
 Dunkelberg, F.....Lima.
 Einfeldt.....Lima.
 Eiguera, Glicerio.....Trujillo.
 Emmel, Fernando.....Arequipa.
 Emmel, Hermanos.....Arequipa and Cuz-
 co.

Ferreteria, Espanola Vidaur-
 rasaga.....Trujillo.
 Gamboa, A. S.....Lima.
 Garcia, A., & Co.....Piura.
 Gildemeister & Co.....Lima and Trujillo.
 Gildemeister, Enrique.....Lima.
 Gorbitz & Co.....Chiclayo.
 Grillo, Adam.....Chiclayo.
 Gulda, F., & Co.....Lima.
 Hachmeister.....Lima.
 Hardt, E. W., & Co.....Lima.

Hassler & Michaelson.....Trujillo.
 Hilbek, F., & Co.....Payeta and Piura.
 Hilbek, Kuntze & Co.....Chiclayo and Pacas-
 mayo.

Hilman.....Lima.
 Justus, W.....Lima.
 Klinge, F., & Co.....Lima.
 Kosmos Steamship Line.....Callao.
 Lizarzaburn, J.....Trujillo.
 Lopes, Arturo.....Lima.
 Ludowicz & Co.....Lima.
 Michaelson.....Trujillo.
 Modonsi, Fernando.....Lima.
 Ostendorf, W.....Piura.
 Ott Philip & Co.....Lima.
 Pajares Hnos.....Lima.
 Pallette, A. A.....Paíta and Pacas-
 mayo.

Plenge, Walther.....Chiclayo.
 Portgal, Eduardo.....Mollendo.
 Rathjens, Guillermo.....Arequipa.
 Rivera, T.....Lima.
 Schroeder, C. M., & Co.....Lima.
 Schroeder, S.....Lima.
 Sociedad Casa Grande Zucker-
 plantagen A G.....Lima.

Soto, Bernard.....Iquitos.
 Strasberger, E., & Co.....Iquitos.
 Talledo, Pedro N.....Paíta.
 Trittau, George.....Lima.
 Umlauf, Fernando.....Lima.
 Umlauf, B.....Lima.

Vela, Daniel.....Lima.
 Villegas, Manuel Valdivia.....Arequipa.
 Weiss, Carlos & Co.....Salaverry and Tru-
 jillo.

Wiebe, F., & Co.....Salaverry and Tru-
 jillo.
 Wiebe, D.....Salaverry.

SALVADOR.

Banco Salvadorense.....Santa Ana.
 Beneke, Theodoro.....San Salvador.
 Bloom, David.....San Salvador.
 Cohn, Maximo.....San Salvador.
 Cohn, M. & R.....San Salvador.
 Davidson, H.....San Salvador and
 Santa Ana.

Goldtree Hebes & Co.....San Salvador.
 Rohme, Max.....San Salvador.
 Luders, Juan & Co.....San Salvador.
 Mathies, Cune G.....Santa Ana.
 Mugdan & Co.....Santa Ana.
 Voss, Max.....San Salvador.

URUGUAY.

Arboyela, A. Fernandez. Montevideo.
 Banco Aleman Transatlantico. Montevideo.
 Barth, Rier & Co. Salto.
 Barth, Eugenio. Montevideo.
 Bernitt, Rodolfo. Montevideo.
 Bottini, Oscar. Montevideo.
 Brague, Augustin. Montevideo.
 Brauss, Mahn & Co. Montevideo.
 Brolund, Ricardo. Montevideo.
 Buch, A., & Co. Montevideo.
 Canto, Robert. Montevideo.
 Carballo, Juan N. Montevideo.
 Castagnet & Co. Montevideo.
 Clarfeld, Federico & Co. Montevideo.
 Clausen & Co. Montevideo.
 Compania Alemana de Depos-
 itos de Carbon. Montevideo.
 Delecampo, Carlos. Montevideo.
 Dornier & Bernitt. Montevideo.
 El Debate. Montevideo.
 Estrader, Pedro. Montevideo.
 Ferrari, Macedonio. Montevideo.
 Garbin, Hermanos. Montevideo.
 Garcia Ramos, Jose. Montevideo.
 Gishelm, Teodoro. Montevideo.
 Groseurth & Co. Montevideo.
 Grundland, D. Montevideo.
 Guthmann, Ricardo. Montevideo.
 Hardt, Engelbert & Co. Montevideo.
 Hardt, E. W., & Co. Montevideo.
 Herborn, Maximo. Montevideo.
 Herchmann, Ignacio. Montevideo.
 Industria Quimica Argentina
 S/A. Montevideo.
 Krabb, Hermann & Co. Montevideo.
 Kropp & Co. Montevideo.
 Lahusen & Co. Montevideo.

Legemann, F., & Co. Montevideo.
 Lanza & Denis. Montevideo.
 Larsen, Herbert. Montevideo.
 Lasker & Co. Montevideo.
 Levallois, Pablo. Montevideo.
 Liendo, Arturo. Montevideo.
 Lorienti, Juan F. Montevideo.
 Lubeck, Hermann. Montevideo.
 Lubeck, Servos & Co. Montevideo.
 Marquez, Joaquin C. Montevideo.
 Merlo, Juan M. Montevideo.
 Moreno, Daniel. Montevideo.
 Osten & Co. Montevideo.
 Osten, Cornelio. Montevideo.
 Panaro, A. Montevideo.
 Peluffo, Estaban. Montevideo.
 Quinche, Ernesto. Montevideo.
 Rahe, Walder & Co. Montevideo.
 Raedler, Bernardo. Montevideo.
 Raglio, Jose. Montevideo.
 Rein & Co. Montevideo.
 Rey & Co. Montevideo.
 Robert, Eugenio & Co. Montevideo.
 Roehrs, Emilio & Co. Montevideo.
 Sanguinetti, Jose B. Montevideo.
 Sanjines, Dionysio. Montevideo.
 Schliel, Georg. Montevideo.
 Schmidt, Pablo. Montevideo.
 Servos, Isidoro. Montevideo.
 Staudt & Co. Montevideo.
 Stern, Ricardo. Montevideo.
 Szule & Raedler. Montevideo.
 Ures, Alfredo. Montevideo.
 Vasquez, Pablo. Montevideo.
 Velasquez, Pedro. Montevideo.
 Wagenknecht, E., & Co. Montevideo.

VENEZUELA.

Abad, Antonio F. Ciudad Bolivar.
 Afanador, Dr. J. E. Sanchez. Ciudad Bolivar.
 Aigster, Carlos. Valencia.
 Anez, Julio A., & Co. Maracaibo and San
 Cristobal.
 Arango & Lopez. Maracaibo.
 Arreaza, Luis Fernando. Aragua de Barcel-
 ona.
 Baralt, A. Miguel, Maracaibo.
 Barnewitz, Ernesto. Ciudad Bolivar.
 Becker, George. Caracas.
 Beckmann & Co. Maracaibo.
 Behrens, Adolfo. Caracas.
 Behrens, Valentiner & Co. Caracas.
 Beier & Co. Maracaibo.
 Belioso Roscel Hermanos. Maracaibo.
 Belioso Velasco, Jesus. Maracaibo.
 Benatuli, Miguel. La Guaira.
 Benes, Francisco. Maracaibo.
 Blauback, Alejandro & Co. Valencia.
 Blohm & Co. Ciudad Bolivar,
 Caracas, La Gua-
 ira, Puerto Ca-
 bello, Valencia,
 Barquistemo and
 Maracaibo.
 Bocanegra, L. La Guaira.
 Bossio Marques, Lino. Ciudad Bolivar.
 Breuer, Moller & Co. Maracaibo and San
 Cristobal.
 Chacin, Emiro. Maracaibo.
 Christern, Zingg & Co. Maracaibo.
 Dalla Costa. Ventura Bertran,
 Ciudad Bolivar.
 Dallmeier & Vera Leon. Caracas.
 Danla, Federico H. Maracaibo.
 Daumen, Fernando. Caracas.
 Diaz, L., Alfredo. La Guaira.
 Diaz, Legorburu (Genaro). Puerto Cabello.
 Dissel Van Rode & Co. Maracaibo and San
 Cristobal.
 Drumer, S. Maracaibo.
 Drumer, S., Eduardo. Caracas.

Escobar, R. Hijo & Co. La Guaira.
 Fensohn, C., & Co. Curacao and Cara-
 cas.
 Fry, Carlos. Ciudad Bolivar.
 Garcia, C. M. Maracaibo.
 Garcia Delepiani, M. Ciudad Bolivar.
 Garcia, Rudolfo. Maracaibo.
 Gathmann, Hermanos. Caracas.
 Glab, Alfred. Ciudad Bolivar.
 Goldtree, Liebes & Co. San Salvador.
 Guevara, Luis Felipe Hijo. Ciudad Bolivar.
 Guillen & Dole. Trujillo.
 Henriquez, Daniel. Maracaibo.
 Hess, Carlos. Caracas.
 Juncal, Fernando. Ciudad Bolivar.
 Kehrhaun, Adolf, & Co. Maracaibo.
 Koenecke, Rudolph. La Guaira.
 Kuhl & Co. El Callao, State of
 Bolivar.
 "La Duquesa" Volweider & Caracas.
 Co.
 Legorburu, Genaro Diaz. Puerto Cabello.
 Lima, A. D. de. Maracaibo.
 Manri, Jose Ventura. Caracas.
 Meester & Co. Puerto Cabello.
 Montiel, Roman. Maracaibo.
 Noack, A., & Co. San Cristobal.
 Nunez, Pomplillo. Ciudad Bolivar.
 Portillo & Hermanos. Maracaibo.
 Preetzmann-Aggerholm. Caracas.
 Pulker, J. A. Hijo. Maracaibo.
 Quintero, Ciro. Maracaibo.
 Quintero Santana, Caracciolo. San Cristobal.
 Ramirez, Jose. Ciudad Bolivar.
 Rayhez & Firnhaber. Maracaibo.
 Redler, Otto, Sucesor & Co. Puerto Cabello and
 Barauimeto.
 Regener, Ernesto. Puerto Cabello and
 Rio Chico.
 Rincon, Jr., Alfredo. Maracaibo.
 Rincon, Angel Renato. Maracaibo.
 Rodriguez, Eduardo. Ciudad Bolivar.
 Rodriguez, Luis M. Ciudad Bolivar.

VENEZUELA—Continued.

Rodriguez Vasquez, Tomas.....	Puerto Cabello and Valencia.	Varras, T. Enrique.....	Maracaibo.
Schnell (Blohm & Co.).....		Vera Leon, Julian & Co.....	Caracas.
Screler (Blohm & Co.).....		Volweider & Co.....	Caracas.
Schultz, C. L.....	Caracas.	Wenzel, Gmo., & Co.....	Ciudad Bolivar and Caracas.
Sinram, O.....	Caracas.	Wiese & Co.....	Caracas.
Steinvorh & Co.....	Maracaibo and San Cristobal.	Willson Cook, W.....	Maracaibo and San Cristobal.
Urritia, Rafael M.....	Maracaibo.	Yabrude, Salomon.....	Ciudad Bolivar.
Valentiner, Behrens & Co.....	Puerto Cabello and La Guaira.		

BUREAU OF EXPORTS PROVIDES POWER OF ATTORNEY BLANKS.

All shippers, forwarding agents, and manufacturers should note that the Bureau of Exports of the War Trade Board has prepared a form of Power of Attorney which must be properly executed and filed with the Bureau in all cases where application for export license is made by anyone other than the owner or exporting principal of the goods. Any owner, manufacturer, or exporter can make one Power of Attorney to cover all shipments by his forwarding agent after December 4, 1917. No license will be granted upon any application sent in by shippers or exporters or forwarding agents wherein they are shipping the goods for or belonging to other parties, unless they are authorized so to do by Power of Attorney on file with the Bureau of Exports. A copy of the form can be obtained from the Bureau of Exports, 1435 K Street NW., Washington, D. C., or any of its branches.

APPARATUS FOR THE DEAF IN MALAGA.

[Consul Louis G. Dreyfus, jr., Malaga, Spain, Sept. 8.]

No electrical instruments for the deaf are now sold in Malaga. One dealer states that an electrical instrument was sold here several years ago at 100 pesetas, but it did not prove successful, as it could not be repaired when this became necessary. The country of origin of the instrument is not known.

Several types of ear trumpets are sold in Malaga. Most of them are of German origin and were imported before the war. A nickel-plated instrument, cuplike in shape, is placed at the ear. It retails in Malaga for 12 pesetas. Another nickel-plated instrument of the usual trumpet shape, which is about 14 inches long but which may be unscrewed into three sections, retails at 12 pesetas. Two small nickel hollow cylinders for insertion into the ear holes to facilitate the hearing are sold at 3 pesetas per pair.

Probably the best seller at present in Malaga is a French ear trumpet consisting of a flexible metal cord about 1 yard long with a very small cuplike receptacle at the end into which a person speaks. The whole is of metal in dark bronze finish and sells at 40 pesetas.

[A list of firms in Malaga which deal in optical apparatus and instruments for the deaf may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 93753.]

COMMERCE REPORTS

PRINCE OF WALES



DAILY CONSULAR AND TRADE REPORTS
ISSUED DAILY BY THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE



For sale by the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C., at \$2.50 per year

No. 285 Washington, D. C., Thursday, December 6 1917

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SHIPMENTS FROM ALLIES IN TRANSIT THROUGH UNITED STATES.

The War Trade Board has passed a resolution authorizing the Director of the Bureau of Exports to license freely cargoes originating in the United Kingdom, France, or Italy or their colonies, possessions, or protectorates when shipped via United States ports to United Kingdom, France, and Italy or their colonies, possessions, or protectorates.

As regards Canadian shipments, cargo of the above character is of two kinds—that which leaves Canada by rail, passing through the United States in bond, and then shipped from a United States port, and cargo shipped from Canada by steamer which later touches at a United States port.

In order to make the above resolution effective, the Bureau of Exports is to-day issuing instructions to the branch offices and to the collectors of the ports as follows:

License has been issued to the Customs Division of the Treasury Department, covering all shipments "in transit" originating in Canada which come into the United States by rail, in bond, to be exported from a port in the United States to England, France, or Italy or their colonies, possessions, or protectorates. The collectors of the port will permit shipments of this character to be forwarded upon receipt by the collector from the shipper of an additional copy of the United States Customs Carrier's Manifest Form 7512. This additional copy is to be forwarded immediately by the collector at the port of exportation to the War Trade Board, Washington, D. C.

With regard to the second class of shipments, namely, those leaving a port in the United Kingdom, France, or Italy or their colonies, possessions, or protectorates, and destined to such countries or their colonies, possessions, or protectorates, via United States ports, the collectors are authorized to license such cargo upon receipt by them of a copy of the manifest covering the cargo in question, which manifest is to be mailed immediately by the collector to the War Trade

Board, Bureau of Tabulation and Statistics, 920 F Street NW., Washington, D. C.

With regard to shipments from Canada to Japan, made by steamers which call at a port of the United States, the same ruling will apply as to shipments from Canada to England, and such cargo will be licensed by the collectors in exchange for copies of the manifest.

BRITISH EMBARGO CHANGES.

[Cablegram from American consul general, London, Nov. 28.]

The proclamation of May 10, 1917, prohibiting exportation from the United Kingdom has been further amended. The class of prohibition is indicated by symbols, viz, (A) denoting prohibition to all destinations; (B) prohibition to all destinations other than British possessions and protectorates; (C) prohibition to all destinations in Europe and on the Mediterranean and Black Seas other than France, Russia, Italy, Spain, and Portugal.

The following headings are added:

(A) Anvils; asbestos and articles made of asbestos; axes; cinchona bark; alkaloids and their salts; formic acid; radium and its compounds; all animal and vegetable fats and mixtures containing them; fatty acids and mixtures; beans of all kinds except calabar and stigmatius; handles for adzes, axes, forks, hand hammers; hooks; canvas hose; cloth, unbleached, woven from bleached or unbleached flax yarns, whether pure or mixed, of a weight per square yard exceeding 8 ounces, or if of 8 ounces or less, aggregating 96 threads or more per inch warp and weft combined; linen yarn; lubricants not otherwise specifically prohibited and mixtures containing them; mica block, sheets, and splittings; all animal and vegetable oils, fixed, and mixtures containing them; oilstones; oleaginous kernels, nuts, seeds, and products; carpenters' pencils; chicory; coffee essence; belaying pins; blocks, wood and iron; rigging bolts; rigging chains; cleats; dead eyes; eye plates; rigging screws; set or stretching shackles and thimbles; unmanufactured and manufactured tobacco; adzes; augers; bars; boring, jumping, and pinching braces and bits; chisels; cramps; crowbars; drilling posts; forks, stone, road-making and coke; gimlets; gouges; hand hammers; carpenters', coopers', farriers', glaziers', painters', and saddlers' knives; spirit levels; pliers; pipe cutters; wood and iron planes; rail benders; handsaws; screw drivers; coopers' and saddlers' shaves; tinman's shears and snips; spanners; spoke shaves; carpenters', fitters', and smiths' squares; farriers' tongs; wrenches; turpentine substitute and articles thereof; typewriters and parts; vises.

(B) Indian hemp; iridium compounds; osmium compounds; palladium compounds; rhodium compounds; ruthenium compounds; hammers not otherwise prohibited; iridium, its alloys and manufactures; mica waste, mica powder, micrite, and articles made thereof; osmium, its alloys and manufactures; palladium, its alloys and manufactures; rhodium, its alloys and manufactures; ruthenium, its alloys and manufactures; terebene and articles therefrom.

(C) Araroba powder; areca nuts; arecoline; buchu leaves; calabar beans; cascara sagrada and preparations; chrysarobin; coca leaves; colocynth; cubebs; cuprea bark; rhatany root; stigmatius beans; nitrate of soda; squills; metal-working machinery and component parts; parchment; saponaceous berries, barks, and roots; vellum.

The following items from the former list are removed, being replaced in most cases by new items under different classifications above:

(A) Radium compounds; beans of all kinds; mineral lubricants and mixtures containing them; mica blocks and mica splittings; vegetable oils and mixtures thereof, viz, castor, coconut, colza or rapeseed, cotton seed, ground nut, linseed, palm kernel; oleaginous kernels, nuts, seeds, and products; unmanufactured tobacco; turpentine substitute and articles thereof.

(B) Anvils; asbestos and articles thereof; axes; cinchona bark, quinine and its salts; all animal and vegetable fats and articles and mixtures containing

them; fatty acids and articles and mixtures containing them; hammers; cloth, unbleached, woven from bleached or unbleached flax yarns whether pure or mixed, of a weight per square yard exceeding 8 ounces or if of 8 ounces or less, aggregating 96 threads or more per inch warp and weft combined; lubricants not otherwise specifically prohibited and articles and mixtures containing them; mica sheets, waste, powder, micaite, and articles thereof; animal oils not otherwise specifically prohibited and mixtures containing them; all vegetable oils not otherwise prohibited; vises.

(C) Cascara sagrada; formic acid; iridium compounds; osmium compounds; palladium compounds; rhodium compounds; ruthenium compounds; iridium and its alloys, and manufactures containing iridium; canvas hose; linen yarn; metal working machinery and component parts and accessories thereof; osmium, its alloys and manufactures; palladium and its alloys and manufactures; chicory; rhodium and its alloys and manufactures; ruthenium and its alloys and manufactures; manufactured tobacco; typewriters and parts thereof.

SMALL OLIVE AND OLIVE-OIL CROP IN GREECE PREDICTED.

[Vice Consul C. M. Corafa, Athens, Oct. 30.]

Unfortunate climatic conditions in Greece early in the year, combined with an unusually severe drought in the olive-producing districts, seriously cut down the olive crop in 1917. The presence of disease in the groves has also affected the situation, so much so that the Ministries of National Economy and Agriculture have made appropriations to combat the dreaded "Dakus" and other olive-tree diseases. For these reasons it is estimated that the total crop will not exceed 20 per cent of that of a normal year.

In the Amphisso district the production is estimated at about one-tenth the normal, not more than 373,000 gallons being anticipated. This strikes a hard blow at consumers of fruit from this, perhaps the best in quality grown in Greece. In a good olive year the production in Old Greece is about 65,000,000 okes (25,000,000 gallons), of which 7,000,000 to 9,250,000 gallons are generally exported.

In the Provinces of New Greece conditions are brighter, reports from Crete and Mitylene being very encouraging. From Mitylene come estimates of a possible crop of 7,450,000 gallons.

EXPORTS OF FISH FROM CANADA TO THE UNITED STATES.

[Customs Memorandum 2144B.]

Cured fish for consumption in the United States may be exported from Canada under indorsement by the collector of customs at the point of exit on the usual shippers' export entry. This concession extends to dried, cured, prepared, salted, and smoked fish and makes possible the prompt dispatch of such shipments without the formality of obtaining a license from the Minister of Customs, as was required under the embargo order of November 15 (see **COMMERCE REPORTS** for Nov. 24).

By arrangement with the United States War Trade Board, Canadian customs officers are authorized to issue licenses for fish, cured in any form, to be exported to any destination in North and South America. Shipments in transit through the United States for which the War Trade Board has issued licenses are entitled to the same treatment.

Frozen fish are to be classified as fresh fish, and may accordingly be forwarded to the United States under license from the customs collector at the point of exit.

LIGHTHOUSE EMPLOYEES MEET HURRICANE'S TEST.

The efficiency and courage of the men in the United States Lighthouse Service who are stationed along the coast of the Gulf of Mexico met with a severe test during the hurricane that was experienced on September 28, 1917, and the service that they rendered during that emergency was of so creditable a nature that special commendations have been bestowed upon those employees by Secretary of Commerce Redfield.

Recognition of zeal and energy displayed in protecting Government property under very trying and hazardous conditions was extended to E. Buras, laborer, at Port Eads Lighthouse Depot, La.

Persons who maintained lights under very trying circumstances were: William B. Thompson, keeper, Robert L. Purcell, first assistant keeper, and Harvey H. Holdeman, second assistant keeper, of Pensacola Light Station, Fla.; Steven Coludrevich, assistant keeper of Pass Loutre Light Station, La.; and Andrew E. Steiner, keeper, and Walter D. Eiland, assistant keeper, of Horn Island Light Station, Miss.

Recovered Government Property.

For recovering Government property and making temporary repairs after the storm, commendation was extended to William W. Bayly, keeper, Mack W. Hamm, second assistant keeper, and Benjamin S. Bayly, laborer, at the Chandeleur Light Station, La.; John B. Mason, keeper, John W. Simmons, first assistant keeper, and Albert Johnson, second assistant keeper, of Southwest Pass Light Station, La.; and John W. St. G. Gibbon, keeper, and Christian T. Thomasen, assistant keeper, of Head of Passes Light Station, La. Maintenance of the light also was noted in the case of those at Chandeleur Station.

Recovering Government property which had been washed away during the hurricane was noted in the cases of William J. Doyle, keeper of Fort Barrancas Range Station, Fla., and Frederick Hurd, keeper of Devils Point Lights, Fla.

Give Refuge in Tower.

Sydney Gibbon, keeper, and William F. Stephens, first assistant keeper, of Sand Island Light Station, Ala., were commended for maintaining the light under very trying and hazardous conditions during the hurricane and giving refuge in the tower to a large number of workmen employed by the contractor placing rock at that station.

Leonard F. Edgecombe, keeper of South Pass Range Rear Light Station, La., was commended for maintaining the light during the hurricane and giving refuge in the tower to 55 employees of the Engineer Department, United States Army, with their families.

South African Firm Desires to Act as Wool Buyer.

The American consul at Port Elizabeth, South Africa, has transmitted the name of a firm in his district that desires to act as agent for an American wool-buying firm. The name of the firm can be obtained at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district or cooperative offices by referring to file No. 93010.

MILLIONS IN LIVE STOCK DESTROYED ON TRACKS.

Through the negligence of live-stock owners food animals valued at \$20,000 were killed on the tracks of the Central of Georgia Railway during the first nine months of this year. According to a statement of the vice president and general manager of that road, 1,862 head of stock were needlessly wasted in this manner, the average value of which was approximately \$10 to \$11 per head. Fine dairy cows and beef cattle were included, as well as hogs, sheep, geese, etc.

During those nine months one animal was killed for every mile of track on the Central of Georgia, and if that figure can be accepted as a basis for estimating the loss for the entire country the destruction of food animals on the railway tracks of the United States during the first nine months of this year can be put down at \$2,760,000, or \$3,680,000 for the whole year.

That is a very serious loss to the country and its allies at this time, and gives point to the opinions recently expressed by Mr. L. W. Baldwin, vice president and general manager of the Central of Georgia Railway, and published in the Savannah Morning News. They are here reprinted in part:

For the nine months up to October 1 of this year there were killed on our tracks 1,862 head of stock, the average value of which is approximately \$10 to \$11 per head. Some of these are fine dairy cows and beef cattle and other head include hogs, sheep, geese, etc.

In practically all of these 1,862 instances the owners of the stock have allowed the animals to roam upon or near the railroad right of way, and with the characteristic fright of dumb animals they do not know how to protect their own lives, but rush pell-mell in front of our locomotives, and the engineer has little chance to avoid striking them. After it is killed the animal is not considered fit for food, and even though the owner received compensation from the railway to cover his individual loss so much food has been lost which would benefit the country at this time.

Just now, when there is being conducted a Nation-wide campaign for the conservation of food, and when each of us is being asked to do his bit toward saving something to eat, would it not be fair and right for the owners of live stock to keep their cattle within range and away from the railroad tracks, where they trespass to the ultimate cost of everyone? I consider this a question serious enough to merit the instant consideration of every county and every municipality, as well as every individual, and if there are localities where proper laws do not exist with respect to roaming live stock, suitable laws ought to be drafted and passed. Assuming that other railroads have about the same experience that we have, the economic loss in this State and in the country every year from this cause must be enormous.

ESTIMATE OF THE ITALIAN 1917 CORN CROP.

[Consul F. T. F. Dumont, Florence, Oct. 29.]

According to the *Statistica Agraria* for September, the yield of maize in all Italy for 1917 is estimated at about 2,534,600 tons of 2,000 pounds each, as compared with 2,282,623 tons in 1916 and a seven-year average (1909-1915) of 2,914,459 tons.

In Tuscany and Emilia the estimated yield of "granturco Maggengo" (a variety cultivated throughout Italy, and which forms 95 per cent of the total crop), is 327,955 short tons, as compared with 235,277 tons in 1916 and an eight-year average of 403,663 tons. Some 8,600 more acres were cultivated than in 1916.

Italian importations before the war averaged 450,000 tons per year, so that the shortage, as compared with the normal consumption, is about 830,000 short tons.

COOPERATIVE SOCIETIES IN FRANCE.

[Commercial Attaché C. W. A. Veditz, Paris.]

The cooperative movement in France, which was in a rather critical position at the outbreak of hostilities, has made remarkable progress since 1914. Far from being detrimentally affected by the war, the cooperative societies throughout France have extended the scope of their operations. While the so-called "mutual benefit societies," trade-unions, and similar organizations have found their activities seriously hampered by a state of war, the consumers' cooperative societies have witnessed a rapid growth in their membership and in the extent of their transactions. The shortage of foodstuffs and the general advance in prices have attracted to the cooperative shops increasing numbers of purchasers, even those belonging to the so-called middle classes seeking to economize. The public authorities, having largely taken control of provisioning the civil population, have eagerly availed themselves of the assistance which could be effectively rendered by the consumers' cooperative societies. The rôle which these organizations have played in France is quite as important as in Germany, where, according to Prof. Stein, the difficulties of supplying the civil population with food would have been almost impossible to overcome had it not been for the cooperative societies.

In the invaded regions of France the cooperative stores have generally been spared by the enemy, and have served as places of refuge for the local population, somewhat like the churches in the wars of the Middle Ages. Even in Belgium the membership of the cooperative societies has grown considerably, although the rapid exhaustion of their stocks of merchandise and of their supply of funds has placed them in a difficult situation. Even among the refugees cooperative stores have been organized, as among the Belgian refugees in Holland at the camp of Gaasterland.

Important Work Accomplished by the Societies.

In France the outbreak of the war found the cooperative societies in the midst of a crisis following the reconciliation of two rival groups of organizations after 18 years of conflict. Moreover, the region of France which first suffered invasion was precisely the part of the Republic in which cooperative societies were most numerous and most prosperous. Throughout France as a whole the membership and influence of these societies has increased more rapidly during the war than during the corresponding period preceding the war.

In Paris the city government has made financial advances to and worked in conjunction with the cooperative societies, particularly in connection with the sale of frozen meat. The cooperative societies, moreover, have taken over the innumerable branches of the Maggi firm for the sale of milk, these establishments having been sacked in the first days of the war because of their supposed German ownership. The cooperative societies have also obtained means from the military authorities for the sale of their products at the front, and have thus helped to save the troops from being exploited by small dealers (the so-called "mercantis"). They have also created workshops for the unemployed and have taken an active part in relief work, particularly in the care of war orphans. A few months ago, moreover, they organized an international congress of cooperative

societies at Paris for the purpose of determining what economic measures should be taken at the close of the war.

In a recent speech at Geneva the former French Minister of Munitions, Albert Thomas, who is also one of the leading officials of the French Association of Cooperative Societies, stated that the cooperative societies solved for France the problem of providing a sufficient food supply for numerous localities in which there had been an extraordinary increase in the population through the influx of great numbers of munition workers.

AMERICAN EXPORTS OF ANILINE COLORS.

Notwithstanding the constantly increasing demands of the domestic market and the handicap caused by munition manufacturers drawing more and more largely on the available supply of toluol and other coal-tar derivatives vitally essential as raw material for the dyestuff industry, exports of aniline colors during September show a gain over the preceding month of \$66,800, or 21.9 per cent. September exports by customs districts indicate that \$261,454, or more than two-thirds the total value of all aniline colors shipped abroad, passed through New York, \$47,913 through the Massachusetts district, \$6,515 through west coast districts, \$1,630 across our Mexican border, and the remainder through districts adjacent to Canada.

The exports of aniline colors for the first quarter of the current fiscal year amounted to \$1,173,439, of which \$497,106 worth was shipped in July, distributed among 21 foreign countries; \$304,768 in August, to 21 countries; and \$371,565 in September, to 17 countries—an average monthly exportation of \$391,146 for the first quarter in which aniline dyes are shown separately in the statistical classification.

England Buying from This Country.

England is our best customer so far, having taken \$195,195 of the aniline colors exported during the quarter ending September 30, 1917, followed by British India, with \$184,967; Canada, \$161,581; Spain, \$105,504; France, \$86,379; Japan, \$80,073; Mexico, \$75,353; Italy, \$67,484; and other countries with less extensive purchases.

The United States is the only country that has succeeded in establishing since the war began a successful dyestuff industry capable not only of meeting the color requirements of its domestic manufacturers of textiles, paper, paints and pigments, leather, straw, inks, stains, varnishes, waxes, etc., but also of exporting considerable quantities to our allies and neutral countries. Using the quarterly figures as a basis for the estimate, we are now exporting our surplus production of aniline colors at the rate of \$4,693,756 annually, or practically twice the value of our entire domestic production for the fiscal year 1914, which amounted to \$2,470,096. This refers to values only, which are, of course, much higher, comparatively, at the present time.

These figures of production and exportation apply to the coal-tar dyes only, and take no account of our equally well-developed trade in logwood extract, osage orange, and other vegetable colors.

PAPER SCARCITY IN SPAIN.

[Consul General Carl Bailey Hurst, Barcelona, Oct. 16.]

Anxiety is felt in Spain as to securing sufficient paper pulp from abroad, because the domestic paper industries are largely dependent upon foreign countries for this raw material. Imports of paper pulp, most of which is of Scandinavian origin, during the past 4 years have been as follows in metric tons of 2,204.6 pounds: 1913, 60,942 tons; 1914, 39,568; 1915, 50,486; and 1916, 68,234 tons.

The average annual import of 54,000 metric tons is augmented by a local production of some 15,000 tons, so that the consumption of paper pulp in Spain each year may be roughly estimated at about 69,000 tons, which would be increased by nearly 10 per cent annually if more pulp could be secured.

Paper-Making Supplies Available in Spain.

Attention has recently been drawn to the supplies of material adapted to paper making which are available in this country. Investigation shows that in the Aragonese and Catalan Pyrenees many square miles of pine exist that could be so utilized as to produce annually 15,000 tons of pulp. In the valley of the Aran alone there are stretches of pine land capable of yielding an additional 6,000 tons every year. A further supply of pulp would be available within a reasonable period through the cultivation of black poplar on many waste tracts. Should the 300,000 tons of esparto grown annually in Spain be diverted from its present uses and made into pulp instead, it is stated that 150,000 tons of pulp could be obtained suitable for paper manufacture. If advantage could be taken of all of its resources, Spain would not be, as now, obliged to consider the possibility of a paper famine, but could amply supply the home market and have a surplus for export.

Economy in Government Offices.

Measures have been taken by the Spanish authorities to enforce rigid economy in the use of paper in the Government offices. Only single sheets of paper are to be used and not the formal double sheets in official use. Writing is now to cross the whole page without leaving the customary half page margin; account books and registers are to be reduced in size and weight, wide margins and spacing thereon suppressed. The Bank of Spain, the Tobacco Monopoly, tax collecting offices, and all branch administrative offices are requested to adopt similar measures. Stamped paper for documents will be manufactured in single sheets, of lighter weight and inferior quality to that now issued.

Government archives in the ministries and in the provinces are to be sorted over, and only those documents and papers are to be retained that have a historic, judicial, or administrative value, the remainder to be converted into pulp.

Rules are to be prescribed whereby the collection of rags and waste paper throughout the country will be, if necessary, supervised by the mayor of each community and the material thus gathered be held for the national stamp factory where pulp-making machinery will be installed.

To Regulate Sizes of Newspapers.

The Press Association has formulated plans for the regulation of the consumption of news paper, whereby daily papers are divided into three classes. The first class consists of papers the size of which does not exceed a total 1,860 square inches. These periodicals may publish 4 pages daily or 28 pages weekly as they are now doing, but on no day can such papers print 6 pages, not even on Sunday. The second class consists of daily papers the size of which exceeds 1,860 square inches, but not over 2,635 square inches. These periodicals may publish 34 pages a week divided as follows: 4 days at 4, and 3 days at 6; but on no day may they publish more than 6 pages. All other newspapers, exceeding a total of 2,635 square inches in size each, constitute the third class and may not publish more pages than they have been accustomed to issue in the past.

Should the present stock of paper not be replenished in 4 or 5 months all Spanish newspapers will be again reduced.

USE OF MINING MATERIAL AND STORES IN SOUTHERN RHODESIA.

[Consul John P. Bray, Johannesburg, South Africa, Sept. 14.]

Although the gold-mining industry of Southern Rhodesia is by no means so important as that of the Transvaal, yet it is of increasing importance, and American manufacturers might study with profit its needs and requirements. The following table shows the imports of mining material and stores used principally for mining purposes during the years 1914, 1915, and 1916:

Articles.	1914	1915	1916	Articles.	1914	1915	1916
Acid, sulphuric.....	\$12,677	\$13,023	\$14,006	Iron and steel—con't			
Assay apparatus.....	31,283	34,270	38,309	Pipes and piping.....	\$60,778	\$45,063	\$61,639
Blasting compounds and dynamite.....	338,426	390,819	436,579	Plate and sheet.....	12,074	21,349	19,184
Borax.....	12,020	14,020	18,060	Lead:			
Candles.....	113,146	107,496	176,907	Bar and sheet.....	930	404	2,964
Caustic soda.....	2,127	1,431	3,971	Foil and acetate.....	8,400	19,349	9,193
Cement.....	43,662	13,324	5,470	Pipes and piping.....	136	170	68
Coal, coke, and pat- ent fuel.....	2,205	1,280	2,886	Lime.....	24,663	34,528	26,702
Composition:				Litharge.....	4,502	2,847	4,127
Boiler.....	2,068	1,504	1,557	Machinery:			
Metal.....	6,954	12,419	17,641	Bands and belt- ing.....	92,308	72,414	77,579
Copper:				Buckets and trucks.....	19,399	10,774	21,729
Plate and sheet.....	3,952	1,655	4,458	Electrical.....	100,805	28,021	34,071
Bar.....	13,368	8,497	175	Mining.....	666,720	383,096	348,765
Cyanide of potas- sium.....	4,360	97	3,382	Packing.....	17,495	21,520	20,264
Cyanide of sodium.....	288,715	336,708	343,049	Parts.....	106,153	64,365	123,429
Detonators and fuse.....	89,519	69,996	154,329	Pumps.....	53,051	33,958	40,372
Electric fittings.....	77,192	36,864	42,431	Oil:			
Fire bricks and clay.....	1,153	900	1,158	Castor.....	9,762	8,064	4,789
Grease, antifriction.....	20,415	21,539	27,277	Colza.....	88	29	19
Iron and steel:				Lubricating.....	64,462	69,153	86,556
Angle, channel, and T.....	4,054	2,667	1,197	Quicksilver.....	17,315	19,558	21,963
Bar, bolt, and rod.....	66,525	67,523	85,495	Tramway material.....	6,511	3,202	6,010
Chains.....	4,954	4,562	6,030	Waste, cotton.....	6,375	8,239	9,110
Girders, beams, and joists.....	31,429	10,784	3,606	Wire rope.....	17,339	14,546	25,807
Galvanized.....	14,142	11,032	11,003	Wood:			
Galvanized, cor- rugated.....	121,010	61,331	40,329	Handles for picks, etc.....	6,399	5,542	9,086
Pig and ingot.....	1,256	2,161	2,784	Unmanufactured.....	100,080	60,810	59,907
				Zinc.....	58,748	97,899	213,985
				Total.....	2,800,510	2,263,862	2,711,597

RUSSIAN COOPERATIVE MOVEMENT DURING THE WAR.[Abstract of article in *International Review of Agricultural Economics*, August.]

The war has given a vigorous impulse to cooperation in Russia. The number of cooperative consumers' societies has almost doubled, while the number of societies of all classes has increased by more than 50 per cent. The following table shows the number of cooperative societies of various types in Russia in 1914, 1915, 1916, and 1917:

Kinds of societies.	1914	1915	1916	1917
Cooperative credit.....	12,985	14,586	15,436	16,055
Cooperative consumption.....	10,080	12,000	18,000	20,000
Agricultural.....	5,885	7,073	7,801	8,232
Cooperative butter factories.....	2,000	2,000	2,500	3,000
Total.....	31,050	35,659	43,737	47,287

On January 1, 1914, there were about 10,000,000 members of cooperative societies, and in 1916 the number had increased to 15,000,000.

Cooperative Credit Societies.

The most important branch of Russian cooperation is without doubt cooperation for credit. On January 1, 1917, there were 21,263 institutions of small credit, distributed as follows: 11,810 credit societies, 4,245 savings and relief funds, 76 unions, and 5,132 small credit funds belonging to noncooperative institutions. The corresponding figures for 1915 and 1916, respectively, were as follows: Total, 18,437 and 20,762; credit societies, 9,516 and 11,412; savings and relief funds, 3,515 and 4,042; unions, 11 and 62; and noncooperative institutions (including funds of the *zemstvos*), 5,395 and 5,246. The small credit funds of the *zemstvos* discharge almost exclusively the task of unions of cooperative credit institutions. During the war cooperation for credit has directed all its efforts toward organizing unions. It has also been drawn into the sphere of cooperative consumption, has taken a very active part in supplying the Army, and has participated in a growing movement for the creation of cooperative industries.

Since the war started cooperative societies have set up factories for the construction and repair of agricultural machines and implements. This form of cooperative production was stimulated by the lack of agricultural machines that resulted from the difficulties of importation and by the increased demand for machines to take the place of labor. The credit unions took the lead in this enterprise because they could most easily find the necessary capital. Cooperative societies began to make other articles also, especially those for which agriculture furnishes the primary material. Mills were established, and also machines for the desiccation of fruits and vegetables.

Remarkable Growth of Cooperative Consumers Societies.

The total number of cooperative institutions for consumption reached 18,000 on January 1, 1917, while before the war it was barely 10,000. In European Russia the increase was 98 per cent; in Siberia, 99 per cent; in the Caucasus, 164 per cent; and in the trans-Caspian Provinces, 171 per cent. In certain governments the percentage of increase was very high; in the government of Nizhni Novgorod it was 709 and in the government of Kharkof 447. The rapid develop-

ment of the cooperative consumers' organizations in Russia resulted from the pressure exerted by the crisis in the food supply. According to information that is incomplete, and therefore below the truth, the turnover of this branch of cooperation in 1916 was 1,500,000,000 rubles.

A movement parallel to that of cooperation is found in the organization of unions of districts, Provinces, and regions and of a central union. On January 1, 1917, the unions of cooperative institutions for consumption numbered 250, of which 170 had been formed in the preceding year. The number of cooperative institutions belonging to the unions has greatly increased. The Union of Cooperative Societies of Moscow, which is becoming the center of cooperative consumption in Russia and is on the point of forming a single national cooperative institution for consumption, had 1,734 members in 1915 and 3,164 in 1916. The membership of the union of Vologda increased from 222 to 600; that of Perm, which was formed of 13 societies in 1912, included 500 in 1916, 308 of which had joined during the latter year. The total number of cooperative societies grouped in the unions was 4,000 on January 1, 1916, and 12,500 on January 1, 1917; in other words, no less than 60 per cent of the cooperative consumers' societies have adhered to the unions. The turnover of all the unions was 257,000,000 rubles in 1916, as against 70,000,000 rubles in 1915. In 1914 the value of the goods sold by the Union of Cooperative Societies of Moscow was 10,000,000 rubles; in 1915, 22,800,000 rubles; in 1916, 85,000,000 rubles; and in 1917, 145,568,000 rubles (estimated). The turnover for 1917 will be distributed as follows: Commerce, 131,420,000 rubles; production, 11,131,000 rubles; propaganda, 3,017,500 rubles. These estimates are moderate, for they involve an increase of only 70 per cent, as compared with 128 per cent in 1915 and 280 per cent in 1916.

Industrial Undertakings and Agencies.

In 1916 cooperative consumers' societies founded 1 chemical establishment; 4 soap factories; 4 candy factories; 4 establishments for the treatment of leather; tobacco, match, preserved fish, and paper factories; establishments for the treatment of wood and sunflower oil; mineral-water works; printing presses; and a number of mills. The estimates of the Central Union left out of account the large mills purchased in the first months of 1917 and a number of other enterprises of various kinds. The activity of the Central Union in the fish trade deserves special attention. In 1917 it bought two large refrigerators, a steamer, and 10 barges that were built to transport fish, thus preparing for the sale of 250,000 poods (9,028,000 pounds) of fish from European Russia. It also organized the purchase of fish in Siberia. The union also organized the trade in butter, cheese, eggs, pork, etc.

The Central Union founds at points likely to be active trading centers agencies having stores for wholesale goods. These agencies have the double aim of applying the cooperative institutions with wholesale warehouses and of buying local products for the Central Union without the intervention of middlemen. There were 7 of these agencies in 1916 and 12 in 1917. Their turnover in 1916 was very large, that of the Rostof agency being 257 per cent of its amount in the preceding year, that of the Kief agency 180 per cent, that of

the Odessa agency 256 per cent, that of the Rybinsk agency 589 per cent, and that of the Astrakhan agency 2,351 per cent. For the current year a turnover of 44,700,000 rubles is anticipated.

Cooperative Butter Factories.

The statistics of cooperative butter making are among the most incomplete. The most exact refer to eight Governments—Archangel, Vologda, Vyatka, Kostroma, Novgorod, Olenets, Perm, and Yaroslavl—and give the following data as to the development of cooperative butter factories: In 1914 the total number of cooperative institutions was 4,302 and the number of cooperative butter factories 286; in 1915 the corresponding figures were 4,895 and 408; and in 1916, 6,528 and 540. With regard to the number of cooperative butter factories in Siberia the following data are available: In Tomsk Province, the number was 114 in 1914, 497 in 1915, and 1,038 in 1916; in Tobolsk Province, 1,200 in 1916. The unions had an exceptional development; 27 have been formed since the war started in Siberia, where before there were only 3. In 1915 the Union of Altai, comprising 100 societies, left the Siberian Union, which now comprises 800 societies; and during the last months of 1916 another autonomous union was organized at Kurgan. Besides these associations there are many in the Governments of Moscow, Orenburg, and Ufa. There were 3,000 cooperative butter-making associations in all Russia in 1916.

ENGLISH DEMAND FOR LEATHER BELTING INCREASES.

[Consul E. Haldeman Dennison, Birmingham, Oct. 10.]

Before the war there was little opportunity for the sale of American belting in the Birmingham district. The trade was very carefully looked after by British manufacturers, who claimed that their product was the best in the world. They had the advantage of being on the spot, kept a large stock of their belts always on hand, and covered the country with active salesmen. Conditions now have materially changed. Government factories, munition factories, and other establishments, not only in this country but also in France and other allied countries, are demanding greatly increased quantities of leather machine belting for their work, so that belting of this kind has come into great prominence in spite of the high price of raw material. The market demands belts of the very best quality, such as will do the work called for efficiently and without requiring too much attention. The best British belts fulfill these conditions.

Effective Way to Sell Goods.

The business should be placed in the hands of some one in close touch with the machinery industry who could give his whole attention to such products. The ideal way for an American firm would be to have its own representative over here to make a study of British terms and customs and carry a large stock. If a firm is not prepared to go to this expense, which, of course, would be considerable, then an agent should be selected from among the firms on the list that is forwarded. It might be advisable to provide for such a representative an allowance for advertising. It may be that London would be a better center from which to work. In any event, there is a big opening in the United Kingdom for leather belts.

[A list of possible importers of leather belting in Birmingham may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 94405.]

CONCRETE MACHINERY IN SWITZERLAND,

[Vice Consul J. C. McNally, Zurich, Nov. 9.]

Concrete mixers are extensively used in Switzerland, chiefly for the construction of buildings and roads. Most of them have been imported from Germany; some are manufactured in Switzerland. Preference would be given, probably, to a medium-sized machine. As concrete is becoming more and more common in construction work, the use of such machines must increase.

On account of the high cost, only the large contractors have been able to buy such machinery, but if it is possible to bring on the market a less costly mixer, which in spite of its smaller dimensions offers the same advantages, and will render just as good service as those now in operation in this city, it will probably meet with success. The French or German language should be used in correspondence with firms here.

[The names of wholesale dealers in and users of concrete machinery in the Zurich district may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, its district or cooperative offices. Refer to File No. 95204b.]

[Consul Lewis W. Haskell, Geneva.]

Must Compete with European Firms.

The possibilities of introducing American concrete mixers in the Geneva district are most favorable, although the demand for such machines is limited. It is urgent that dealers in the United States should employ every possible means to obtain a strong position in this market in order to counterbalance the efforts of near-by enemy countries, which have facilities for sales on account of their location. A list of possible importers of concrete mixers is forwarded.

[The list of names mentioned may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, its district or cooperative offices. Refer to File No. 95281b.]

CEREAL CROP REPORT FOR NEW ZEALAND.

[Consul General Alfred A. Winslow, Auckland, Nov. 6.]

The cereal crop outlook is not promising in New Zealand for the 1917-18 season, according to the best information obtainable at this time, which will leave a marked shortage of wheat at least.

The season is very backward and the seeding was light, but hopes are entertained that the yield may exceed the average yield for the past two years, which was 20 bushels to the acre. Wheat and oats look fine in some localities, while in some parts excessive rains have materially damaged the fields, that can hardly recover.

According to a statement reported to have been made by the Minister of Agriculture of New Zealand, there is a shortage of 25,000 or 30,000 acres sown in wheat, as compared with the 1916-17 season, when the wheat supply was 1,250,000 bushels short. The estimated acreage seeded to wheat this season is placed at 189,000, as compared with 216,000 acres for the past season.

At present there is only sufficient wheat and flour in New Zealand to supply the demand for about two months, and imports are coming forward very slowly from Australia, where the New Zealand Government contracted for 1,500,000 bushels. Some of the flour mills in this country have been compelled to shut down owing to the short wheat supply.

AMERICAN COMPANY TO DEVELOP PARAGUAYAN HOLDINGS.

[Special Agent H. G. Brock.]

American interest in Paraguayan cattle and timber resources has grown considerably during the past few months. The recent formation of the International Products Co., a \$5,000,000 Maryland corporation, is of significance to all firms having commercial relations with Paraguay. The amount of money which the new organization will put into circulation in the Republic will stimulate business in all lines, and the success of this enterprise will mean much to the future development of Paraguay.

The International Products Co. is organized primarily for the prosecution of the timber and cattle business. Its activities are centered in two distinct parts of Paraguay. In the northeastern section of the country, distant some 45 hours by steamer from the capital, Asunción, the company is developing the properties formerly held by the New York & Paraguay Co. [Mention of the New York & Paraguay Co. was made in COMMERCE REPORTS for Oct. 29, 1915, p. 426.] The latter was earlier a subsidiary company of the New York Tanning Extract Co., which disposed of its Argentine and New York properties in 1913 to the Forestal Land, Timber & Railways Co. (Ltd.), of London. Besides the property formerly held by the New York & Paraguay Co., adjoining land has been purchased to the south, which gives the International Products Co. a total of 1,400,000 acres, about equally divided between excellent grazing land and quebracho forests. The frontage on the Paraguay River at Puerto Pinasco is about 15 miles, and the holdings of the company extend 110 miles west of the river. In addition to the town of Puerto Pinasco, the property includes at least 25 miles of meter-gauge railroad, lighters, tugs, and other river transportation facilities. Seventy-five thousand head of cattle are known to be on the ground at present.

A few miles below Asunción on the Paraguay River another field of activity of the company is located. Ground has already been broken for a large meat-packing plant, the underbrush cleared away, and the construction of a dock commenced. A subsidiary company, capitalized at \$1,500,000 and known as the Central Products Co., has been formed to handle the meat-packing proposition with all its ramifications. Special lighters, drawing about 6½ feet, are to be constructed to transport cattle from Puerto Pinasco to the plant at San Antonio, and also to transport the frozen or chilled beef to the ports of Buenos Aires or Montevideo, and within a year it is hoped to be able to begin operations. The capacity of the plant will be 500 cattle daily, but until this supply is definitely assured probably from 250 to 500 will be killed.

Carbide Illumination in Sweden.

Vice Consul Arthur E. J. Reilly reports from Stockholm, Sweden, that the production of carbide lamps has in a relatively short period of time become an important industry and soon the different models will number about 200. One of the first lamps of practical importance constructed is a table lamp, submitted by a Stockholm firm.

EXPORTATION OF TANNED SKINS FROM INDIA.

[Consul Lucien Memminger, Madras, Oct. 4.]

The fortnightly market report of the Madras Chamber of Commerce states that some licenses to export tanned skins from Madras have been granted. The first consignments to the United States from Madras since the prohibition of December, 1916, are expected to be forwarded shortly.

The market report of September 14 said with regard to tanned goat and sheep skins: "Since the last report good clearances have taken place in both articles at advancing prices. Some shippers believe that export restrictions will shortly be removed." The report of September 28 said: "Since the last report the market has been quieter. We hear that some licenses to export have been granted."

[The embargo of December, 1916, prohibited exportation of tanned skins to all destinations except the United Kingdom, while earlier regulations had permitted shipments to certain destinations in British and allied countries. All embargoes in British India are subject to modification by license.]

RED-CLOVER SEED CROP IN LA ROCHELLE DISTRICT.

[Consul James H. Goodlier, La Rochelle, France, Nov. 15.]

In the Department of the Deux-Sevres the 1917 red-clover seed crop has not been very abundant, the figures of production not being available. The prices for good seed have ranged from 300 to 350 francs per 100 kilos (\$57.90 to \$67.55 per 220 pounds), and for old seed 170 francs per 100 kilos.

The "Services Agricoles" of the Department of Charente report that some 2,000 hectares (4,942 acres) are set out to red-clover seed, with an estimated crop for 1917 of 3,000 quintals (1 quintal=220.4 pounds.)

Locally, throughout the Department of Charente-Inferieures, the crop will amount to about 4,500 quintals.

In view of the very limited crop in prospect for 1917, no exports of the seed will likely be made from this port.

CORN SHIPMENTS TO PORTO RICO FROM DOMINICAN REPUBLIC.

[Consul Arthur McLean, Puerto Plata, Dominican Republic, Nov. 14.]

Several shipments of corn have recently been made from Puerto Plata to San Juan, Porto Rico. These are the first exports of this commodity to be made from this place to Porto Rico, but it is expected that they will continue in increasing importance. There is considerable interest at present among Dominican farmers at the prospects of supplying not only corn, but also beans and plantains to Cuba as well as Porto Rico.

OFFICES OF THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE.**DISTRICT OFFICES.**

NEW YORK: 784 Customhouse.
BOSTON: 1801 Customhouse.
CHICAGO: 504 Federal Building.
ST. LOUIS: 402 Third National Bank Building.
NEW ORLEANS: 1020 Hibernia Bank Building.
SAN FRANCISCO: 807 Customhouse.
SEATTLE: 848 Henry Building.

COOPERATIVE OFFICES.

CLEVELAND: Chamber of Commerce.
CINCINNATI: Chamber of Commerce.
CINCINNATI: General Freight Agent, Southern Railway, 96 Ingersoll Building.
LOS ANGELES: Chamber of Commerce.
PHILADELPHIA: Chamber of Commerce.
CHATTANOOGA: South American Agent, Southern Railway System.
PORTLAND, OREG.: Chamber of Commerce.
DAYTON: Greater Dayton Association.

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the Bureau and its district and cooperative offices. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and state opportunity number. The Bureau does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases. Symbols: * Reported by American consular officers; † Reported by commercial attachés and commercial agents; ‡ Direct inquiries received by the Bureau.

In considering the following "opportunities" special regard should be had to the laws and regulations governing export licenses and trading with the enemy.

Agricultural machinery and tools.....	25995	Food products.....	25995
Bags, paper.....	25995	Grain.....	25991
Canned goods.....	25990	Hardware.....	25995
Coffee.....	25991	Hosiery and knit goods.....	25994
Cotton.....	25991	Iron and steel products.....	25997
Cotton goods.....	25995	Lead.....	25997
Cotton seed.....	25991	Leather.....	25991, 25996
Drugs and chemicals.....	25995, 25998	Paper.....	25995, 25996
Electric motors and fans.....	25989, 25992	Perfumery.....	25998
Engines and boilers.....	25993	Sheep dip.....	25995
Fertilizers.....	25995	Stationery supplies.....	25991

25989.*—A man in India desires to purchase electric alternating current motors of 220 volts. Catalogues containing complete information, prices, etc., should be submitted so that orders may be cabled. Quotations may be made f. o. b. port of shipment with estimate of freight rates. Correspondence may be in English.

25990.†—A company in England wishes to buy or secure an agency for the sale of large quantities of canned fruits and canned salmon. Cash will be paid. Reference.

25991.*—An exclusive agency is desired by a man in Italy for the sale of cotton in bales, castor-oil seed, cotton seed, coffee, leather, all kinds of grains, and stationery supplies, such as pencils, ink pencils, etc. Payment will be made by opening credit in bank of London when giving order available against shipping documents. Correspondence may be in English. References.

25992.*—A company in England desires to purchase 300 electric ceiling fans having 56 to 60 inch sweep, 4 white enameled wooden blades, fans in black and gold; 220 volts, 200 watts, D. C. circuit; also for alternating-current fans, 110 volts and 220 volts, 50 cycles, single phase, with and without hanger and canopy. Quotations should be made f. o. b. New York for India. Cash will be paid in the United States. References.

25993.*—An agency on a commission basis is desired by a man in Spain for the sale of steam fishing-boat engines and boilers, maximum size of boats about 100 tons.

25994.†—A man in France wishes to secure an agency for the sale of hosiery and knit goods; of wool, cotton, and silk, especially silk coats for women. Correspondence should be in French. Reference.

25995.*—A company in South Africa desires to purchase and secure agencies for the sale of fertilizers, sheep dip, agricultural tools, implements, and machinery, paper, bags, news and wrapping paper, hardware, coarse prints, cotton blankets, condensed milk, food products, and specialties suitable for South African markets. Quotations should be made f. o. b. New York.

25996.†—An agency is desired by a man in France for the sale of paper, leather, and chemical products. Correspondence should be in French.

25997.*—A commercial association in Cuba wishes to secure exclusive agencies for the sale of steel and iron bars; black, galvanized, and corrugated sheets; cast-iron pipe; iron and steel pipe, black and galvanized; reinforced iron bars; structural iron and steel and shapes; metal sheets; and lead. Quotations should be made f. o. b. shipping port. Cash will be paid, but credit terms would be preferred. Correspondence may be in English. Reference.

25998.*—A merchant in India is in the market for chemicals, drugs, and perfumery. Payment will be made by cash against documents or confirmed bank credits opened in New York. Correspondence may be in English. Reference.

COMMERCE REPORTS



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SHIPPERS' AGREEMENT WITH THEIR OWN BRANCHES OR AGENCIES ABROAD.

The War Trade Board wishes the shipping public to know that the form of agreement which it has prepared for shippers to sign when they are shipping to their own branches or agencies abroad is to supersede any other form of such agreement heretofore published. Shippers are further advised that the mere signing of this agreement does not necessarily mean that licenses will be granted to them. The form is prepared by the Bureau of Exports to meet the requirements only of those shippers who have been in the habit of carrying stocks abroad with their own branches. If the War Trade Board grants a license to the shipper to ship to his own branch, it has heretofore exercised no control over what the branch might do with the goods on receipt of same. The branch might sell these goods to an enemy house, when, if the application to ship to this enemy house had been made to the Bureau of Exports, the license would not have been granted. In order, therefore, to make the work of the Bureau more effective and at the same time not to work any hardship on those reputable shippers who have had branch houses established in foreign countries, this form is prepared.

Shippers should bear in mind that there is more than the legal obligation resting upon them when they sign this contract, and they will be asked to show any proof they may have that it can be carried out. The mere signing of the contract without the furnishing of any proof that its provisions can be carried out by the consignor would render the contract useless so far as the purposes of the Bureau of Exports are concerned.

When the goods are received at the destination abroad by the branch or agent of the shipper, they can not be resold in, or exported from, such foreign country without complying with the regulations.

The Bureau also calls the attention of shippers to the fact that this agreement is not to be used to in any way supplant the supervision of consignees, but to strengthen it.

Any shipper wishing to use such agreement should first make application to the War Trade Board, setting forth reasons for so doing.

EFFECT OF SILVER SITUATION ON SOUTH CHINA TRADE.

[Consul General George E. Anderson, Hongkong, Oct. 12.]

When a silver dollar of Chinese, Mexican, or British mintage—that is, a silver dollar with no gold exchange guaranty back of it—will exchange into 75 to 80 gold cents in Hongkong or China for the purchase of goods in the United States instead of the 40 to 45 gold cents it usually calls for, there naturally ought to be a strong demand in Hongkong and China for American or European goods. This is the theory of the matter, and in a general way, high exchange in China usually leads to increased purchases of foreign-made products while, conversely, the comparatively low value of gold leads to a check in Chinese exports to the United States and Europe.

In spite of these general effects of plain economic laws, however, the recent extraordinary rise in the value of silver has not led to increased imports of foreign goods, although it has checked the normal flow of Chinese exports. In fact, this latter result explains the former result, for the buying power of the Chinese people is so low and the economic position of the Chinese nation is so weak that, save in a few instances, the people and country can not and do not buy abroad until they have exported what they have to sell.

Aside from booming trade with the United States (due to the fact that commerce with other nations is hampered by the war), trade conditions in Hongkong and China since silver took its upward trend have not been good. There is no reason to believe that they will improve until silver falls in price.

Export of Silver from Hongkong Prohibited.

The situation in Hongkong and South China, and to some extent in all China, would have been much less satisfactory than it has been if exchange on the United States and Europe had followed its normal course in the rise and fall of silver. It has not followed this normal course, however. Notwithstanding the fact that silver bullion—silver in any form—in China is practically currency and in Hongkong is the basis of all currency, the free movement of this currency out of Hongkong and South China was prevented by law and, to some extent, by the lack of general import business. Concurrent with this action was the decision of the dominant financial interests in Hongkong not to follow the price of silver abroad in exchange rates, being supported in this position by the general commercial conditions in the colony and more or less in China as a whole.

The fact was that Chinese import and export business could not adjust itself to the rise in silver as rapidly as that rise occurred. When the price of silver in the markets of the world advanced more rapidly than the price of the metal in Hongkong and Shanghai, exports of the metal from Hongkong and Shanghai commenced and at Shanghai proceeded to a considerable extent. In the South China Provinces silver began to move to Shanghai, going thither for export, for speculation, for investment in foreign securities, or simply on interest to take the place of silver already exported. For a time the outflow from South China was serious—so serious, in fact, that the Chinese officials concerned took action and prohibited the further export of silver from the South China Provinces. Action on the

part of the Hongkong government was even more prompt. At the solicitation of the dominant banking and financial interests, the government early prohibited the further export of silver from the colony.

Exchange Held Below Silver Parity.

The result illustrates remarkably the influence of Hongkong banking institutions as well as the dependence of exchange upon trade. On September 22, when both the price of silver and silver exchange were at their highest point, the telegraphic-transfer rate of the Hongkong silver dollar on New York was 77½ cents (London, 3s. 2½d.), while the parity of silver (that is, the actual value of silver here as determined by its cost abroad at 55d. per ounce in London, with freight, insurance, and interest added), was roughly about 4s. sterling or 96 cents gold. Exchange in Hongkong, therefore, was held 19½ per cent below the value of the silver it represented. In Shanghai, on the same date, with the telegraphic-transfer rate of the tael at \$1.17½ gold (London, 4s. 10½d.), silver parity was placed at \$1.30 (5s. 5d. sterling), or 9 per cent below the value of the silver in Shanghai as measured by its value in other markets.

This policy of keeping exchange below its London level was deemed necessary for the protection of banking and commercial interests in this field. That it has accomplished its object is true in a remarkable degree, though some of its results have been rather unexpected. Of course the first object—and the first result—of this policy was the protection of Hongkong and South China business from the restriction of credits and the withdrawal of loan and overdraft privileges from their customers by Hongkong banks. The free shipment of silver out of the colony would have meant the withdrawal of deposits and the impairment of silver stocks held as the basis of currency issues, the withdrawal of note currency from circulation by redemption, and otherwise the destruction of a bank's ability to lend money and credit to its clients for commercial and industrial purposes. With a prohibition of export effective the silver is kept in the colony, and, being in the colony, it remains in the banks.

"Business as Usual"—Effect on Bank Notes.

Despite the great rise in silver generally and the natural disposition of holders to sell it at the expense of Hongkong import and export business, such business has been able to go on as usual, with substantially the usual freedom of credits. While the rapid and extreme rise of silver has dislocated international banking to some extent as a matter of course, that temporary dislocation has not imposed dire results upon Chinese business generally. The entire system of banking and credits has been protected from a sudden drain of resources and has been enabled to readjust itself to changed conditions and a new level of silver values.

There are other curious, significant, and important results of this restriction on the export of silver from Hongkong, however, which have not been anticipated. A very large share of the business of South China is conducted in terms of bank notes issued by certain British banks in Hongkong on the basis of silver and sterling reserves. These bank notes are promises to pay silver dollars on demand in Hongkong. They have always circulated very freely in

the South China Provinces, particularly the Pearl River delta, because they are a convenient and comparatively safe form of carrying money from place to place in the interior. So long as silver could be sent out of Hongkong these notes were accepted at par and at times were at a premium. When the export of silver was prohibited, however, these notes, although still redeemable in silver in Hongkong, became, in fact, not redeemable outside of Hongkong and thus became inconvertible paper currency. The result is that these notes are now circulating in the South China Provinces at 5 to 12 per cent discount—much to the advantage of the notes of the Bank of China, which are still redeemable in the Provinces, and of other banks issuing notes in Chinese ports. And, of course, this 5 to 12 per cent discount goes to increase the cost of goods bought in the Provinces for export.

Domestic Transfers and Remittances.

Another result of silver conditions in China, particularly in South China, has been the extreme difficulty of making remittances in silver to Shanghai and the north without serious loss. The difference in the bank transfer rates has been so great and the consequent loss by transfer so great (a transfer from Hongkong to Shanghai involves turning the silver in Hongkong into sterling and then the sterling into Shanghai currency) that some commissioners of the Chinese Maritime Customs, for example, have made their remittances to Shanghai by the actual shipment of silver—an increasing drain on the silver supply and credit basis of their districts, but apparently the only way of avoiding serious loss.

Remittances from place to place in China itself are so expensive, the cost running often as high as 25 per cent of the amount transferred, that trade in some sections is almost paralyzed. This difficulty and expense exist normally and have merely been accentuated by present conditions.

OPENING FOR TRAMWAY IN DOMINICAN REPUBLIC.

[Consul Arthur McLean, Puerto Plata, Nov. 7.]

The period in which to begin operations having expired without anything having been accomplished, the franchise granted to local parties to build an electric tramway in the city of Santiago de los Caballeros and to several outlying towns has been annulled by the Dominican Government.

The franchise, which was very liberal, provided for an electric tramway in the city of Santiago de los Caballeros, with an extension in one direction to Las Lagunas, Navarette, La Penuela, Esperanza, Guayacanes, Mao, San Jose de las Matas, and Janico, and in another to Marilopez, Punal, Canca, Licey, and Tamboril. Santiago, a town of about 15,000 inhabitants, is the trade center of the northern half of the Dominican Republic. The other places to which the proposed line was to extend range in population from 200 to 1,000. It is said that sufficient power could be developed from the Yaque River, which passes through Santiago, to operate the tramway.

As yet there are no electric tramways in the Dominican Republic. The capital, Santo Domingo City, with a population of about 25,000 inhabitants, and Santiago are the only towns in the Republic of sufficient importance to warrant such service.

PARAGUAYAN CATTLE INDUSTRY.

[Special Agent H. G. Brock.]

Paraguay contains some of the best cattle lands in the world, although the resources of the country along this line have not yet been adequately developed. It is estimated that there are about 4,000,000 head of cattle in the Republic at present, but a complete and accurate census has never been taken. The cattle raised here have a low death rate and are comparatively free of disease. The worst difficulty encountered is the "garrapata," or tick, which is found in most sections of the country. There are not more than a dozen dipping vats in the entire Republic at present, but by the introduction of methods of eradication similar to those used in the United States this insect pest can undoubtedly be largely done away with.

The average weight of Paraguayan cattle is around 800 pounds, the heaviest animals being found in the Misiones district. Up to the present Paraguay has produced only the "canner" grade of cattle, rather than animals suitable for frozen or chilled beef. Little or no attempt is made to fatten animals before killing. However, experiments are now being made with a Brazilian "gordura" grass; its introduction will improve their condition noticeably, it is believed, and will stimulate the raising of cattle for the chilled and frozen meat trade.

On account of the absence of meat-inspection and disinfection laws Paraguay meat, hides, and other animal products have hitherto not been shipped direct to the United States or to other countries outside of Argentina, Brazil, and Uruguay. This difficulty is in a fair way of being remedied soon, however, and a new source of supply for these products will thus be made available. The Paraguayan Government is taking a serious view of the live-stock-sanitation problem, realizing the immense benefits that will accrue to the country when its live-stock products can be disposed of directly to the United States and Europe. The United States and other prospective customers have been asked to advise it regarding their requirements in this connection. A representative of the United States Department of Agriculture has been in consultation with Government officials in Asuncion for the past month, and a draft of a meat-inspection law, covering the requirements of foreign countries, and of the regulations necessary to enforce such a law is being prepared and is expected to be passed by Congress very shortly. When this is done, Paraguayan meat inspection will be thorough and safe for all importing countries.

BRAZILIAN STEAMSHIP LINE EXTENDS ITS SERVICE.

[Consul General Alfred L. M. Gottschalk, Rio de Janeiro, Oct. 29.]

The Lloyd Brasileira Steamship Line, a Government-owned navigation company, on October 14, 1917, inaugurated a new annex in the shape of a steamship service between Para, Brazil, and Buenos Aires, Argentina.

The steamship *Rio de Janeiro*, which formerly made the trip between New York and Brazilian ports, was the first vessel to be transferred to the new line. On its southbound trip it will call at Santos, Paranagua, Sao Francisco, Brazil, and Montevideo, Uruguay. On its return trip north it will stop at Santos, Rio de Janeiro, Bahia, Pernambuco, Ceara, and terminate the voyage at Para, Brazil.

EFFORTS TO PRODUCE PAPER IN AUSTRALIA.

[Consul General J. I. Brittain, Sydney, Oct. 29.]

At a conference of the Country Press Association recently held at Sydney, the executives of the various States were urged to take action for a reduction in the number of issues per week of newspapers and other periodicals, and a reduction in the size of newspapers.

The normal annual consumption of paper in the Commonwealth for these publications is about 100,000 tons. During the first year of the war 70,000 tons were imported; the second year, 60,000 tons; and the third year, 50,000 tons.

Before the war, the wholesale price of news-print paper was \$45.41 per ton. The supply came largely from Canada and Norway. American capitalists, however, are largely interested in Canadian mills. The present price of news-print paper, delivered in Sydney, is about \$175 to \$185 per ton. Paper measurement is 80 cubic feet to the ton instead of 40.

Opinions Differ as to Practical Results.

An investigation of the claims of Mr. Campbell of Queensland, Australia, as to making paper from certain weeds or grasses found in Queensland was suggested at the conference. Mr. Campbell estimates that paper pulp can be produced for \$34.60 per ton, making it possible to market the paper at Sydney for \$63.26 per ton. Some experienced paper dealers who have been interviewed maintain that such estimates are entirely too low. They say that raw material, if found in sufficient quantities, which they seriously doubt, could not be harvested and transported to the mills, and the paper shipped to Sydney at a price that would warrant competition with the imported article. Whatever may be possible under normal conditions, it is stated that the high price necessarily paid for labor, and the inaccessibility of supplies, would make the scheme impracticable at present. Two bales of pulp from Queensland grasses were taken to America last week for a practical test.

[Consul Lucien N. Sullivan, Newcastle, Oct. 30.]

Proposes to Overcome Shortage.

Under date of October 28, 1917, a daily paper in Sydney gives an account of paper making in the State of Queensland. The article states in part:

Mr. Joseph Campbell, of Queensland, says that with the necessary plant and the right to make use of the grass products of the Northern Territory, he could guarantee that there would not be another paper shortage in Australia. He says he is convinced, after test under trade conditions of production, that he can turn out paper as good as anything imported, at a little under the present charge for freight alone.

The shortage of paper for all purposes—more particularly for the purposes of the printers—is a fact within the knowledge of the trade. In his report to the Country Press conference, the secretary said that unless there were a speedy end to the war, news-print paper would be very scarce in the Commonwealth after next April.

Mr. Campbell, when in Sydney last year, gave some information as to his experiments in the direction of paper production from the native grasses. He was convinced then that he was on the track of a trade success in manufacture, but at the time had not advanced his work far enough to justify him in putting out a business proposition. In the time that has elapsed he has erected a small plant and is producing good-quality trade paper. While experimenting for this result, he worked along other lines for the discovery of vegetable dyes for the

purposes of the printer, and for other purposes. He can produce any color of paper that may be required, and the dyes are warranted to stand the tests.

The plant erected on his property in Queensland was put up at a cost of £600 (\$2,920). With it he is producing paper in small quantities. He has demonstrated that he can do what he said last year he thought he would be able to do, and it is quite possible that a larger producing plant will be installed as the direct result of his exhibition of paper product at the Country Press conference. One of his ambitions is in the direction of making of the waste lands of the Northern Territory a dividend-paying paper-producing enterprise. He has found values, not alone in the fiber grasses of the ironstone areas, but in other directions. Hard-headed business men of the press have been convinced.

AN AFTER-THE-WAR MACHINERY PROBLEM.

(Consul Rufus Fleming, Edinburgh, Scotland, Nov. 14.)

The demand for scrap metal for use in the production of munitions has brought out of various branches of industry considerable machinery that up to the beginning of the war had been much used and has now become practically obsolete. The high prices of scrap metal of all kinds are a strong inducement to the owners of such plants to sell everything that can be spared and then take steps toward reequipping their works as soon as possible. There are two main causes of this clearing-out process:

1. Most of the industries that were diverted to war purposes found a proportion—in some cases a large proportion—of their machinery unsuitable, and it had to be thrust aside. If it was old or badly worn it can not profitably be installed again and may as well go to the scrap heap.

2. Capital invested in industries seriously affected by war conditions has been gradually withdrawn, the owners turning their attention to more promising fields. Among the new branches of industry in the Edinburgh district are the manufacture of turbines, power-driven rotary pumps, aeroplanes, structural steel and ferroconcrete, scientific instruments for naval, military, and trade use, linoleum, paper wrapping twines and specialties in packing material, and imitation leather, and the production of gas and electric power at the coal fields.

"Preparedness" the Keynote.

Vehicle and furniture factories, builders' plants, and a variety of productive works, and also constructional machinery in public and private hands, have long been almost idle, and some of the unused machinery is worth only the weight of the metal. Then, too, a harvest of metal is being reaped on farms where the advent of the motor tractor has thrown into disuse old types of plows and other implements.

Not the least of the difficulties of industrial reconstruction on a normal basis after the war will be the problem of unsuitable machinery, no inconsiderable proportion of which will probably find its way to dealers in scrap metals. Manufacturers of machinery will require time to construct new equipments, in whole or in part, and therefore to the owners of plants now devoted exclusively to war work the question of industrial preparedness—of readiness to take up old or new lines of production immediately on the cessation of hostilities—is an urgent one. At best the adaptation of present plants to old or new uses will, it is thought, be a slow process, and for some time alert manufacturing firms have been thinking ahead and acting ahead.

CONSTRUCTION WORK.**GREECE.**

[Consul General George Horton, Saloniki, Oct. 8.]

Rebuilding of Saloniki Burned District.

It appears, according to a local architect who is being consulted by the mayor of Saloniki regarding the rebuilding of the burned district, that little of a permanent nature can be done until after the war, on account of the high prices of labor and material. Iron and cement cost to-day ten times what they did before the war, and labor five times as much. The lack of coal prevents manufacture of cement here, and transportation difficulties prevent the securing of iron, all of which must be imported.

The area of the burned district, including streets and squares, is about 1,100,000 square meters. The Government appears to have decided upon the establishment of a uniform building plan in this district, especially in the lower town, as to the height and depth of buildings, and as to material of reconstruction, i. e., reinforced concrete.

Present building operations are confined to groups of small buildings on the outskirts of the city, which are to be used for housing those refugees who now have only canvas shelter, and also to relieve the congested conditions in those parts of the city which escaped the conflagration. These buildings are to be uniform in size, one story high, containing four rooms each (about five meters square), each room to be used for a family, and built of stone, brick, tile, and lime locally procured or manufactured. The time limit set for the construction of these buildings, which must be ready before the end of December, renders it impossible to await the arrival of materials from abroad.

[Previous reference to building projects was made in **COMMERCE REPORTS** for Nov. 2, 1917.]

SIAM.

[Vice Consul Carl C. Hansen, Bangkok, Sept. 28.]

Addition to Hospital—Tenders for Land Office and Police Station.

The Siam Red Cross Society at Bangkok has recently received a gift of 200,000 ticals (\$74,000), which will be utilized for building and maintaining a wing to the Chulalongkorn Hospital for the use of royal personages when necessary and otherwise for ordinary inpatients. Building operations will begin forthwith under local contractors whose names have not yet been announced.

Fifteen firms tendered for the building of the new land office for Bangkok. The lowest bid was 35,500 ticals (\$13,135) by Kiam Hoa Heng & Co., of this city.

The Siamese sanitary department advertises for tenders for the erection of a police station, but bids for structures of this kind will be limited to local contractors.

SWEDEN.

[Vice Consul Arthur E. J. Reilly, Stockholm, Oct. 30.]

Large Concrete Bridge for Stockholm.

Plans are now practically completed for the construction in Stockholm of what is claimed will be the largest concrete bridge in the

world. The new structure, which will join Ropsten and Herserud, will be called the Lidingö Bridge after the island where Herserud is located and will be 845 meters (2,772 feet) in length, with 52 arches supported by massive concrete columns 56 meters (183 feet) in height. The columns will be hollow, with an intersection of about 85 centimeters (34 inches). A few of the columns will be provided with concrete "rings" 3 meters (9.84 feet) in height, each "ring" having an expansion of about 1 meter (39 inches).

The constructors of the bridge are the Skanska Cementgjuteriet and a Danish firm, N. C. Monberg, Christian & Nielson. It is estimated that the bridge, which is to be finished in 1920, will cost about \$1,000,000.

SWITZERLAND.

[Vice Consul J. C. McNally, Zurich, Nov. 5.]

Expenditures Provided by Railway Budget.

The budget of the Swiss Federal Railways for the coming year provides, among others, for the following expenditures: For the electrification of tracks, \$3,757,907; for a locomotive roundhouse near the main station of Zurich, \$96,500; for extension of the station of Schlieren, \$86,850; for the reconstruction of the railway of the left bank of Zurich Lake, \$541,400; for a double track from Thalwil to Richterswil, \$96,500; for the extension of the station of Waedenswil, \$19,300; for the extension of the station at Alstetten, \$35,226. In case there should be an improvement in general conditions an additional \$19,300 is to be expended for the extension of the station at Waedenswil; \$38,600 for the transfer of the station at Horgen; and \$19,300 for the extension of the station at Winterthur.

Electrification of Railways.

Referring to the exceptionally large expenditure for electrification, it has been reported that at a recent meeting of the representatives of the private railways in Switzerland it was decided to proceed as early as possible with the electrification of these roads. This question is rendered all the more urgent owing to the present scarcity and high price of coal, and, on the other hand, it is understood that the principal difficulty with reference to the electrification at the present time is the great scarcity of the necessary electrical material and particularly of copper.

WINTER WHEAT IN LYON DISTRICT.

[Consul J. E. Jones, Lyon, France, Nov. 14.]

The cold rains that prevailed in the Lyon district during the last two weeks of October have greatly retarded the winter sowing of wheat, already late in planting. A long spell of good weather is necessary to make up this loss in time, and the plantings must be made correspondingly larger.

The Government has decided that the rate for the winter-wheat crop of 1918 shall be \$11.58 per quintal of 220.46 pounds, in comparison with \$9.65 per quintal prevailing for wheat sown in 1917.

NINE MONTHS' TRADE IN HONGKONG.

[Consul General George E. Anderson, Hongkong, British China, Oct. 11.]

The trade of Hongkong for the first nine months of 1917 has been fairly satisfactory. While the war has materially interfered with the origin and course of trade, the general volume of business has been unfavorably affected more by the high exchange value of silver than by any other single factor. Political unrest has been a drawback, and of course high freight rates have also been a handicap. High prices in Europe and the United States for commodities usually imported by China have influenced business in spite of the fact that high exchange counteracted these to a considerable extent. Notwithstanding these conditions a fair amount of trading has been done. Stocks of most lines of foreign goods have been low and a considerable amount of goods had to be imported.

Increased Import and Export Trade with United States.

Aside from the effects of the high exchange value of silver the notable feature of the year's trade to date has been the increasing share of the United States in both imports and exports. There are no means of ascertaining accurately the volume or value of imports from the United States into Hongkong, but it is estimated that their value in the first nine months of the current year was about \$8,000,000 gold as compared with about \$4,500,000 in the same period last year and \$3,000,000 in the first nine months of 1913, the last normal year. The value of declared exports from Hongkong to the United States has exceeded not only all similar periods, but actually amounts to almost twice the value of the exports in the whole of any year previous to 1916, the total being \$11,855,916 gold as compared with \$6,864,290 in the first nine months of 1916, \$4,329,731 in the first nine months of 1915, and \$3,269,517 in the same period of 1914. Exports to the Philippines for the first nine months of this year were valued at \$3,218,114 gold as compared with a value of \$3,613,804 in the same period of last year.

Trade with Europe gradually declined as means of transport for general cargo became less available. The year so far has witnessed marked development in shipping between India and the East Indies and the United States by way of the Pacific. Hongkong industries have prospered in a fair way. The sugar refineries have been prosperous, and smaller factories, knitting mills, and the like have done reasonably well.

Conditions Affecting Import Trade.

The general course of the import trade has been unfavorable, although imports from the United States have been larger than ever before, as in many lines it has been almost impossible for importers to secure goods from any other part of the world. The trade in American flour has nearly ceased because of high prices and freight rates. The trade in flour from other countries, chiefly Japan and North China, has been far below normal because of high prices and disturbed political conditions. Imports of American kerosene have been small, due to high prices and high freight rates. Imports of iron and steel products and all similar goods, so greatly stimulated by war conditions in the past year and a half, have continued without

much interruption on old contracts. Imports of prepared foods of all kinds from the United States have increased.

Imports of American fabrics and clothing show increases, and there seems to be little difficulty in maintaining this trade for the present. Chemical imports from the United States have gained and now constitute the bulk of the trade. The volume of imports in toilet goods, rubber manufactures, dental and pharmaceutical supplies, leather, and miscellaneous goods from the United States has been increasing each month.

In general, all lines of imports in which the United States has developed a market since the beginning of the war show increases except where war regulations have commenced to interfere. The present import trade of Hongkong is not so much a matter of what can be sold here as it is of what can be obtained from Europe or the United States to meet the demands of local markets. Imports of all standard goods from Europe have gradually decreased, due not only to the increasing difficulty of securing goods but also because of the limited transportation facilities.

Cotton piece goods are arriving in fair volume with a larger proportion from Japan. American piece goods have fallen below last year's figures of about \$100,000, but are still above normal in volume. The trade in cotton yarn has been interfered with greatly by constant speculation and by increasing difficulty in financing imports from India. American knitting yarns still can not compete with the low-priced Japanese small count yarns made of cheap Indian and Chinese cotton.

Imports of Tin, Ginseng, Machinery, Dyes, Etc., from United States.

Tin plate, almost entirely from the United States, has been arriving in smaller amounts than during the corresponding period of last year. American ginseng has fallen off about 10 per cent in value of imports, while the quantity has been reduced by one-fourth. Imports of machinery were considerably larger than in the corresponding period of last year, including particularly locomotives for near-by railways in China, motor, and electrical goods. Imports of lumber fell off in greater proportion than ever as a result of high freights. Leather goods have been imported in comparatively small amounts because of the difficulty of securing supplies, but American trade in this line has visibly increased. In electrical accessories and supplies the trade still draws many supplies of the cheaper sort from Japan, but the higher-class goods are mostly of American origin. There were practically no imports of foreign furniture, either of household or office types, the high freight rates shutting off all business. Because of conditions in the wool trade there has been little trade in carpets and house or office furnishings. American manufacturers are commencing to introduce their goods in this line, particularly substitutes for carpets.

A considerable trade in American dyes is being built up, the imports in the past 9 months exceeding all previous records. Dyes in small volume are coming from Great Britain, but the market is imperfectly supplied. Imports of all classes of metals have been at a minimum because of war conditions, but the United States has been able to sell about all in such lines that could be spared for the market. There have been short supplies of paper and similar goods,

but Japan has taken most of the trade. There has been some increase in the number of automobiles used in this field, the gain being practically all in American cars. Imports of American tobacco for the large cigarette factory in Hongkong have continued to increase and form one of the principal items in the American trade.

By reason of increasing prices in the United States and Europe and increasing freight rates most trading during the year has been profitable to importers, stocks on order usually being enhanced in value and often reselling to advantage before their arrival. The restriction of credits, while it has reduced the volume of trade, also has had the effect of encouraging cash trading and making business safe and generally more profitable.

The Export Trade.

By reducing the amount of silver received by the Chinese producer for his goods at a given price in gold the high exchange has practically paralyzed the general export trade. While large quantities of certain goods have been exported to all countries, particularly to the United States, they are of goods in unusual demand.

There was an increase in mineral shipments to Europe, tin, increasing from 4,800 slabs in the first 9 months of 1916 to 21,800 slabs this year, Great Britain taking 16,920 slabs this year compared with 22,373 slabs a year ago, and the United States and Canada taking 22,874 slabs compared with 10,829 slabs last year. These figures are given by the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce. Shipments of essential oils increased from 1,980 to 3,529 cases to Great Britain, decreased from 3,941 to 1,372 cases to the continent of Europe, and increased from 3,845 to 5,071 cases to the United States.

Exports of Peanuts, Cassia, Matting, Hair, and Silk.

Peanuts to Great Britain increased from 38,469 to 46,181 cases, and to the United States from 8,408 to 48,650 cases, while shipments of peanut oil to the United States are placed at 7,568 barrels as compared with 943 barrels a year ago. Cassia shipped to Great Britain amounted to 17,755 boxes compared with 36,056 a year ago; to the Continent of Europe, 1,650 cases compared with 16,233; and to the United States, 41,575 compared with 49,972. Exports of mats and matting to Great Britain are placed at 23,860 rolls as compared with 42,624 rolls a year ago; to the Continent of Europe at 3,977 rolls compared with 1,465; and to the United States at 24,353 rolls compared with 10,582 rolls. Shipments of preserves to Great Britain fell from 14,073 packages to 9,642; to the rest of Europe they disappeared altogether, while to the United States they increased from 1,588 to 4,008 packages. No fire crackers were sent to England and the Continent, while shipments to the United States decreased from 44,245 to 15,756 cases. Exports of human hair to all Europe are placed at 2,459 cases compared with 3,393 last year, while shipments to the United States are placed at 1,574 cases compared with 727 cases. The general miscellaneous classification of "Chinese merchandise" decreased in shipments to Great Britain from 2,600 to 1,272 cases, while to the United States it increased from 93,380 to 160,494 packages. Shipments of waste silk to Great Britain increased from 5,811 bales to 12,961 bales, while exports to the Con-

tinment of Europe remained almost stationary—6,475 bales as compared with 6,336 bales a year ago—and shipments to the United States increased from 2,475 to 3,721 bales. Europe has taken material quantities of raw silk, 10,750 bales compared with none last year, and the United States took 6,785 bales as compared with 3,912 bales in 1916. All the above figures are taken from commercial sources and only serve to indicate the general course of trade.

Declared Exports to the United States and Possessions.

Exports to the United States have increased materially, their total declared value for the 9 months being \$11,855,916 as compared with \$6,864,290 for the first 9 months of last year. This great increase of substantially \$5,000,000 gold is accounted for mostly in tin, rice, hides, peanuts, and large increases in peanut and other nut oils, chemicals, hair, silk, pepper, tea, tobacco, and a few other items. Decreased exports are to be noted in cassia, lumber, and furniture of various sorts, and a few minor items.

Exports from Hongkong to the Philippines so far this year show a decrease as compared with last year, due principally to smaller shipments of rice which is accounted for by good rice and grain crops in the Philippines and the increasing ability of the islands to feed themselves. The total declared exports for the 9 months are valued at \$3,218,114, as compared with \$3,613,804 in the same period of 1916, \$3,974,323 in 1915, and \$2,306,729 in 1914. There were smaller shipments of eggs, live stock, sugar, and vegetables, while practically all other items show substantial increases. The increase in shipments of raw silk is especially notable, showing the prosperity of the Philippine native cloth industries. There is also a notable increase in the movement of cotton cloth to the islands through Hongkong.

Exports to Hawaii for the first 9 months of 1917 compared with those of last year show increases in nearly all lines. The total exports for the 9 months are valued at \$245,915, compared with \$206,014 in 1916.

The following table shows the value of the declared exports from Hongkong to the United States, the Philippines, and Hawaii during the first 9 months of 1916 and 1917:

Articles.	Nine months ended Sept. 30		Articles.	Nine months ended Sept. 30—	
	1916	1917		1916	1917
TO UNITED STATES.			TO UNITED STATES—CON.		
Antimony.....	\$67,712	\$101,742	Moss and seagrass: Seagrass		
Antiquities.....	7,625	24,800	furniture.....	\$33,312	\$16,882
Breadstuffs: Rice.....	2,735,771	4,489,304	Oils:		
Bristles.....	27,174	57,586	Peanut.....	51,201	164,140
Chemicals.....	108,421	100,637	Aniseed.....	84,334	151,430
Cotton and manufactures of.....	11,612	19,567	Cassia.....	88,312	75,252
Earthenware and chinaware.....	45,474	65,155	Paper, and manufactures of.....	37,217	43,397
Edible substances.....	25,836	58,888	Seeds.....	8,511	17,204
Explosives: Fireworks.....	33,196	43,896	Silk, and manufactures of.....	82,760	145,777
Fish.....	103,089	125,561	Spices:		
Fruits and nuts.....	232,176	620,960	Cassia.....	365,520	201,484
Ginger, preserved.....	38,058	55,234	Pepper.....		126,080
Hair, and manufactures of.....	51,096	128,337	Spirits, wines.....	82,171	124,798
Hides.....	64,612	420,652	Sugar.....	32,440	26,659
Leather.....	40,519	18,464	Tea.....	163,666	163,666
Meat and dairy products.....	31,867	31,568	Tin.....	1,230,632	2,927,213

Articles.	Nine months ended Sept. 30—		Articles.	Nine months ended Sept. 30—	
	1916	1917		1916	1917
TO UNITED STATES—CON.			TO PHILIPPINE ISLANDS—CON.		
Tobacco.....	\$64,848	\$241,851	Vegetables.....	\$127,614	\$77,608
Vegetables.....	213,025	288,914	Wood, and manufactures of.	24,848	37,000
Wood:			All other articles.....	350,499	596,237
Manufactured.....	121,532	111,653			
Unmanufactured.....	273,271	156,267	Total.....	3,613,804	3,218,114
All other articles.....	347,348	399,792			
Total.....	6,884,290	11,855,916	TO HAWAII.		
TO PHILIPPINE ISLANDS.			Breadstuffs: Rice.....	209	4,138
Animals: Cattle.....	62,422	9,361	Chemicals.....	11,396	10,615
Breadstuffs: Rice.....	1,753,735	755,268	Cotton, and manufactures of	2,055	1,940
Cement.....	35,395	60,014	Earthenware and chinaware	3,307	5,399
Chemicals.....	32,857	50,382	Edible substances.....	1,734	2,733
Cotton, and manufactures of.	221,953	539,502	Eggs.....	6,316	6,552
Earthenware and chinaware	26,919	34,290	Explosives: Fireworks.....	2,627	481
Eggs.....	254,546	187,033	Fish.....	25,004	23,059
Fish.....	56,684	66,459	Fruits and nuts.....	15,270	17,145
Fruits and nuts.....	68,790	72,484	Meat and dairy products.....	12,577	4,315
Glass and glassware.....	13,801	12,418	Metal.....	873	872
Matches.....	56,544	86,944	Oil: Peanut.....	9,374	35,485
Meat and dairy products.....	177,945	194,614	Paper.....	3,670	3,546
Metals, and manufactures of.	13,648	29,148	Seeds.....	2,790	2,239
Motion pictures.....	21,372	4,530	Silk, and manufactures of.....	11,380	12,790
Oil: Peanut.....	45,208	61,020	Spirits, wines.....	27,147	39,334
Paper.....		30,994	Straw, and manufactures of.	3,144	2,702
Silk:			Sugar.....	1,658	1,155
Manufactured.....	34,990	38,052	Tea.....	19,890	19,556
Unmanufactured.....	185,048	246,894	Tobacco.....	4,611	5,943
Straw, and manufactures of.	7,461	4,414	Vegetables.....	21,262	18,639
Sugar.....	16,412	9,759	Wood, and manufactures of.	3,729	5,564
Tea.....	9,619	11,497	All other articles.....	31,257	21,963
Tobacco.....	6,464	7,192	Total.....	206,014	245,913

COMMERCIAL GRAIN CONGRESS AT LYON.

[Consul J. E. Jones, Lyons, France, Oct. 26.]

Despite the fact that the fourth year of the war is well on its way, the Thirty-eighth Annual Commercial Grain Congress of Lyon held its session in this city on September 24 and 25. This is the most important trade Congress in France, and the fact that it still maintains its existence in the face of numerous and discouraging obstacles testifies to its power and influence.

For various reasons it was anticipated that the session of 1917 would not prove as successful as its predecessors, but, in spite of untoward conditions and the absence of the enthusiasm that marked the meetings of 1915 and 1916, unexpected results were obtained. There was a falling off of perhaps one-third in the number of visitors as compared with the attendance in 1916; as to the main purpose of the congress, the results were about equal for the two years.

Few offerings, irregular purchases, and small crops, together with war restrictions and requisitionings, made a brilliant success impossible in 1917; but the presence of many buyers from the South, a large delegation from Paris, several big merchants from Brittany and the West, and new buyers from Italy and Spain helped to offset these handicaps, and some of the traders were very well satisfied with the amount of business done. Seven out of every ten buyers were in the market for oats, but sellers were difficult to find and only a few deals

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the Bureau and its district and cooperative offices. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and state opportunity number. The Bureau does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases. Symbols: * Reported by American consular officers; † Reported by commercial attaches and commercial agents; ‡ Direct inquiries received by the Bureau.

In considering the following "opportunities" special regard should be had to the laws and regulations governing export licenses and trading with the enemy.

Boats and barges.....	25999	Machine tools.....	25999
Boots and shoes.....	26005	Machinery.....	25999
Cocks, valves, and fittings.....	26004	Metals.....	26007
Copper and zinc plates.....	26003	Oils.....	25999
Door and window fittings.....	26001	Paints and colors.....	25999
Food products.....	26002	Ropes and cables.....	25999
General merchandise.....	26002	Tires.....	26000
Iron tubes and sheets.....	26003	Tools.....	26003
Knitting needles.....	26006	Taps, brass and bronze.....	26003
Locks.....	26003	Washable cloth.....	26008

25999.*—A firm in Italy desires to purchase machinery for excavation and public works, such as elevators, lifters, dredges, excavators, steel boats for transporting mud, tugboats, towboats, barges, mortar manufacturing machinery, etc.; machine tools and implements for repairing above-mentioned machinery; wire ropes, cables, manila ropes, etc.; and other supplies, such as paints, colors, lubricating oils, etc. Quotations should be made f. o. b. New York. Payment will be made by opening credit at any bank when giving order, available against shipping documents. Correspondence may be in English.

26000.*—An agency is desired by a firm in Portugal for the sale of pneumatic tires. Correspondence may be in English. References.

26001.*—A firm in Switzerland wishes to purchase or secure an agency for the sale of copper and zinc plates for photogravure and engravers. Payment will be made by cash against documents, if possible on Swiss bank. Each case should contain 50 plates, the cases being metal lined. Correspondence should be in French. References.

26002.*—A man in France wishes to represent American manufacturers and exporters of general merchandise, also food products, such as flour, meats, canned goods, etc. Correspondence should be in French. References.

26003.*—A firm in Venice desires to purchase iron tools, such as pliers, snippers, hammers, etc.; bronze taps for steam and brass taps for water, internal diameters running from 10 to 60 millimeters; padlocks, locks, brass handles, and knockers for doors and windows, and all brass trimmings for locks; iron tubes having an internal diameter running from one-fourth of an inch to 2½ inches in pieces of 4½ to 5 meters long; and galvanized iron sheets in assorted sizes. Payment will be made after receipt and examination of goods. Correspondence should be in French or Italian. References.

26004.*—An agency is desired by a company in France for the sale of cocks, valves, and fittings. Correspondence should be in French. Reference.

26005.*—A man in the Dominican Republic wishes to secure an agency for the sale of boots and shoes. Quotations should be made f. o. b. New York. Correspondence may be in English. Reference.

26006.*—A business man in Australia is in the market for hand steel knitting needles, gauges 10, 11, 12, 13, and 14. Quotations should be made f. o. b. Payment will be made in New York. Reference.

26007.*—A firm in India wishes to buy metals. Payment will be made by cash against documents or confirmed bank credits opened in New York. Correspondence may be in English. Reference.

26008.*—A firm in Argentina desires to purchase white washable cloth for the manufacture of collars and cuffs, in rolls 500 meters long, 92 centimeters wide, and space at center of roll 5 centimeters in diameter to enable same to be attached to machinery. Cash will be paid. Correspondence should be in Spanish. Reference.

COMMERCE



DAILY CONSOLIDATED
ISSUED DAILY BY THE BUREAU OF
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

For sale by the Superintendent of Printing

No. 287 Washington, D. C.

British prices for margarin-----
Results of Danish crops-----
Germans economize in use of lubricating oils-----
Market desired for graphite-----
October exports of breadstuffs, oil, cotton, etc-----
Materials for the household-----
Japanese war-time marine-insurance laws-----
Outdoor sports growing in favor with Dominicans-----
Trade-mark and patent protection in Latin America-----
New field for American oleomargarine-----

BRITISH PRICES

[Cablegram from Amsterdam]

Wholesale prices of margarin 10d. per pound, except oleomargarine retail prices, 1s. per pound

RESULTS

A cablegram from Copenhagen gives the results of the Danish harvest of 1915. The Statistical Department, Copenhagen, reports: wheat, 117,000; rye, 225,000; barley, 543,000; and straw, 1,632,000. The results for 1910-1915 as follows: Wheat, 1,146,000; barley, 543,000; hay, 1,801,000.

GERMANS ECONOMIZE

[Commercial Attaché Erwin]

Notices are displayed in Germany regarding the economy in lubricants which are being observed. These are:

Use only closed oil cans, with a thin stream.

Use all lubricating apparatus, the oil only where it will actually be used. Shut off the supply while not in use.

Do not use cylinder oil on shafts.

Keep all rubbing surfaces in good condition. Boxes consume more oil. Worn boxes consume more oil.

Always use drip pans and arrange them so that the oil is as good as new.

Collect all greasy waste and wash it. Never burn them.

Be careful about using lubricants. Often do as well.

Be careful about using oil for greasing. A greasy cloth will do.

The usual monthly statement showing exports of domestic breadstuffs, cottonseed oil, meat and dairy products, cotton, and mineral oils from the principal customs districts of the United States has just been completed by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, Department of Commerce. It shows exports as follows:

Groups and principal articles.	October—		10 months ending October—	
	1917	1916	1917	1916
EXPORTS BY GROUPS.				
Breadstuffs.....	dollars... 49,288,126	39,189,393	496,752,438	364,696,199
Cottonseed oil.....	pounds... 4,504,835	10,769,452	118,762,071	161,413,184
	dollars... 702,695	1,181,845	16,265,967	16,201,471
Meat and dairy products.....	dollars... 18,416,888	25,021,070	302,394,614	224,478,649
	bales... 530,658	796,588	3,923,277	5,511,130
Cotton.....	pounds... 274,991,151	419,644,291	2,018,727,821	2,858,402,607
	dollars... 72,041,378	71,186,163	444,779,896	395,599,072
Mineral oils.....	gallons... 220,975,088	224,207,595	2,115,137,761	2,184,849,459
	dollars... 22,131,313	16,415,489	194,019,020	171,630,537
Total.....	dollars... 162,580,300	152,995,960	1,454,211,875	1,172,607,928
EXPORTS BY PRINCIPAL ARTICLES.				
Corn.....	bushels... 1,601,790	3,891,017	48,102,160	48,367,477
	dollars... 3,326,397	3,745,954	65,114,755	41,661,080
Oats.....	bushels... 11,344,818	8,770,787	75,690,439	87,916,088
	dollars... 7,751,704	4,861,777	55,441,870	41,925,359
Wheat.....	bushels... 5,414,679	11,984,010	96,833,391	125,217,361
	dollars... 12,230,205	19,952,089	224,443,649	172,516,119
Flour.....	barrels... 1,347,478	921,271	10,240,296	12,391,743
	dollars... 14,735,553	6,156,618	99,024,776	70,839,205
Beef, canned.....	pounds... 2,987,479	7,307,066	53,301,306	47,000,852
	dollars... 860,448	1,677,569	14,322,414	10,399,344
Beef, fresh.....	pounds... 9,100,326	17,106,208	194,887,512	155,318,968
	dollars... 1,407,021	2,038,163	28,772,399	19,165,679
Beef, pickled, etc.....	pounds... 5,068,739	1,699,304	57,358,505	24,687,317
	dollars... 656,026	187,066	6,969,074	2,673,477
Oleo oil.....	pounds... 422,162	7,905,655	31,939,001	72,947,637
	dollars... 124,651	1,115,672	6,479,886	9,625,099
Bacon.....	pounds... 29,362,656	41,284,318	492,513,997	470,133,598
	dollars... 7,635,494	6,798,340	99,843,275	67,668,529
Hams and shoulders.....	pounds... 9,988,243	25,546,104	191,593,967	287,285,763
	dollars... 2,564,184	4,519,984	40,113,103	36,515,642
Lard.....	pounds... 10,638,880	21,241,820	331,967,984	349,027,164
	dollars... 2,448,486	3,130,450	64,820,706	43,611,015
Neutral lard.....	pounds... 288,138	1,079,095	9,376,234	24,399,640
	dollars... 80,403	170,729	2,006,032	3,168,722
Pork, pickled, etc.....	pounds... 4,377,238	5,896,657	81,124,145	93,775,843
	dollars... 1,029,189	806,247	15,158,539	11,119,456
Lard compounds.....	pounds... 5,320,089	4,710,203	44,074,199	40,578,834
	dollars... 971,391	572,575	7,411,359	4,612,045
Crude oil.....	gallons... 21,170,505	14,618,735	140,508,017	144,317,699
	dollars... 903,182	504,373	6,214,990	6,148,274
Illuminating oil.....	gallons... 43,949,214	79,683,772	530,911,444	718,541,741
	dollars... 3,170,211	4,794,335	38,267,104	47,606,210
Lubricating oil.....	gallons... 26,602,070	19,691,225	226,585,074	225,621,294
	dollars... 6,232,140	3,345,198	44,577,006	36,727,678
Gasoline, naphtha, etc.....	gallons... 31,240,782	29,464,647	323,921,570	308,282,203
	dollars... 7,121,444	5,417,694	70,491,441	59,147,509
Residuum, fuel oil, etc.....	gallons... 68,013,137	80,749,216	868,309,856	788,098,583
	dollars... 4,704,336	2,353,889	34,467,579	21,497,866

Market Desired for Graphite.

An American consular officer in Spain has transmitted the name of a firm in his district that desires to sell several thousand tons of graphite mineral in crude state, with an average of 10 to 15 per cent, or in concentrated form. The name of the firm can be obtained at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district or co-operative offices by referring to file No. 94622.

A new book just issued of interest to every family. It is written in popular language to be used for home use and will be of great help in managing the home as efficiently. Uncle Sam becomes a worker. Interesting accounts are given of the work in building and furnishing homes, and of the activities of the home.

The circular is practical as to the use of materials (other than food) and their properties, and to aid in the preservation. A better utilization of the home administration of the home for the general well-being of the home is a permanent concern, and this circular will become a vital factor in the instruction in the subject now being begun a new era in home management from the Bureau of Statistics field.

Household materials are of great interest to the student from the fact that they are used up in the home. The materials used in the making of leather, sugar, alkali, wax, and other interesting group of the old-time and modern industries are the old-time household industries. The modern industries, and already some of the price of factory-made products are being lowered by agencies such as the consumer's union, publicity in the public press, and the like.

A previous circular in the series, and a third circular (No. 259) on the use of materials. While written for the general interest of dealers in the home, it is in close touch with its need and is training future home managers.

Copies of this publication are available from the Department of Documents, Government Printing Office, D. C., at the nominal price of 10 cents.

JAPANESE WAR-TIME

Consul General George H. Gurnea of the Imperial Japanese Consulate at Yokohama. These pamphlets are being distributed by the Bureau of Foreign Affairs. Refer to file No. 95238.

Consul Arthur McLean, Puerto Plata, Dominican Republic, Oct. 11.
A hippodrome was recently opened in Puerto Plata by Redondo & Co., and it has been so successful that the same owners have already started work on another in Santiago de los Caballeros. The Puerto Plata hippodrome has a 500-meter track (meter = 1.09 yards), on which 750 and 1,000 meter races are held every Sunday afternoon. The race course at Santiago will be 750 meters long.

The grandstand at Puerto Plata seats 500 people; the one at Santiago will accommodate 2,000. It is planned to build tennis courts and a baseball diamond within the track. Since the coming of the American marines there has been great enthusiasm here for baseball. The Dominicans take to the game and in a very short time become good ball players. A league is about to be formed of the various teams in Puerto Plata and Santiago, including the marines, to play interclub matches.

Cockfighting is still the national sport of the Dominicans, although it is declining in popularity. Under the national gambling laws cockfighting may be prohibited. It may, however, be licensed by the various municipalities, and it usually is, as it yields them a good revenue.

While bullfighting is permitted in the Dominican Republic, it has never been popular in this island. At long intervals a *torador* comes here en route from Spain to Peru or Mexico, and a few bullfights are held in the various towns, but they do not attract a large attendance. There are no professional bullfighters among the Dominicans.

TRADE-MARK AND PATENT PROTECTION IN LATIN AMERICA.

The extension of markets for American manufactures in Central and South America emphasizes the importance of securing full protection granted under foreign laws to trade-marks and patents. This may generally be secured only by registration in each country in which the article is sold, and delay in registering the trade-mark or in applying for a patent has often resulted in loss through the prior registration or appropriation by another. As a convenience to those intending to register trade-marks abroad or to apply for foreign patent rights, a list of attorneys in the various countries of Latin America qualified to attend to such matters has been compiled. The list should also be of service to those having occasion to transact other business with attorneys in the countries covered, as most of these attorneys engage in general practice. The list is not intended to be complete, but an attempt has been made to include only individuals and firms of good reputation. No responsibility is assumed, however, as to the qualifications or reliability of the persons listed. A limited number of copies of this list have been prepared and will be furnished to any who are specially interested.

The general conditions governing the registration of trade-marks abroad are briefly summarized in Tariff Series No. 31 (Registration of Trade-Marks in Latin America), copies of which will be furnished free upon application to the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

The Order in Council of Oct. 31 and Nov. 26, 1917], margarine into Canada under license from the United States and the Department of Agriculture and importation had until then been without any previous acquaintance with it. The first to be accustomed to its use in this market will depend upon the prejudice that now exists against the good points of the commodity made by the Housewives League. The influence toward popularizing the high price of butter will be in its favor. Choice creamery is in grades between \$0.43 and \$0.45. Oleomargarine can be sold here and referred to as second grade cream.

Dealers are Interested—Competition

Dealers are all interested in margarine. It has been tried out to some extent on a limited purchase engagements basis, and the opinion has been given that it is a fair compensation. Actual sales began December 10, 1917, but the firm with which will be glad to hear from dealers meanwhile. [This list of addresses of Foreign and Domestic Consulates is given upon reference to file 100-100000, tising matter, wrappers, cartons, and labels should accompany the application thus be enabled to satisfy the requirements of the local regulations.

Competition will be encouraged. Manufacturers must be licensed in Canada and be bound by the same rules as those in the United States. They must satisfy the Veterinary Department in which the applicant proposes to operate and lighted, constructed of metal, and be in good respect. All material entering Canada shall be subject to inspection and must be used unless it is the product of a Government inspection and bearing the Government seal. It has been manufactured in Canada and is satisfactory to the Dominion Government unless it is from tuberculin test and no butter shall be employed if it has all objectionable odors.

According to a Swedish passport, margarine was shipped from Sweden in 1917.

Construction of Port Works at the Quai Ramboud.

The Bulletin of Navigation, official organ of the Department of Public Works, makes the following announcement: "The Under Secretary of State of Transports has just invited the engineers for the navigation of the Rhone River to prepare with the utmost urgency a new project for constructing a port at the Quai Ramboud, Lyon, and to commence the work with the briefest possible delay. A sum of \$38,600 has been appropriated for putting into execution all preliminary steps."

The present plans call for a construction 1,640 feet long, capable of being prolonged if conditions warrant, with a width of 145 feet. It will be constructed as nearly as possible to a level with the Quai Ramboud so as to permit of the laying of trackage for the loading and unloading of merchandise.

The city of Lyon and its Chamber of Commerce are disposed to contribute in a large degree to the realization of this scheme, which will respond to the modern needs of its commerce and industry.

Will Make Lyon an Important Commercial Center.

In spite of its location between the rivers Rhone and Saone, the only means of communication internally with Lyon is by rail. In this respect it has lines radiating to all parts of France, and because of its geographical position it is within easy reach of Switzerland, Italy, Belgium, Spain, Germany, and Austria. The construction of this port, together with other interior improvements, such as the lateral canal connecting Lyon with Marseille and giving it an outlet to the Mediterranean Sea and the making of the Rhone navigable from Lyon to Geneva, Switzerland, which will connect it with the Swiss lakes and through them with the Rhine, will make of Lyon one of the greatest commercial and industrial centers on the Continent.

Cheap water carriage will no doubt be an important factor in combatting the keen competition which France has experienced with Germany and the Continent generally in the past. The enormous reduction in the cost of goods by distributing them into the interior by means of these continuous water routes can be readily seen. Such a route would have been able to render a magnificent service to Lyon and its region at present by the movement of merchandise from the seaports into the interior.

Reorganization of Railroads—Movement of Merchandise.

The shortage of transports has been, during the war, one of the causes of economic embarrassment. One of the first steps contemplated following the war will be a complete reorganization of the railroads, which will put an end to the antagonism existing between them and the water routes, and to force both to realize that their interests are joint in the solution of this great question. But aside from all ulterior studies relative to the improvement of the Rhone, this port could be immediately utilized in affording a cheap means

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Olive-oil exports from Spain, of which large quantities formerly were shipped both directly and via France and Italy to the United States and other foreign markets from Barcelona and Seville, are prohibited by a recent Royal order. In southern Spain and in the region of Catalonia, the olive-oil industry has been an important source of revenue to the growers who exported to foreign refineries, whence the oil was often shipped to the United States as of really non-Spanish production. Recently the direct exports of the commodity from Spain to the United States have increased considerably with the development of the American taste for the oil produced in this country.

Industry May be Developed Indefinitely.

There is no embargo on exports of essential oils such as pennyroyal, rosemary, sage, thyme, and lavender, the Spanish production of which is largely destined for foreign markets, and shipment of which is made direct from Spain to the United States, France, and elsewhere. These oils are produced especially in the regions of Murcia and Malaga, where many medicinal herbs are grown for domestic consumption and export. As comparatively little use is made in Spain of several oils derived from the plants mentioned and other oil-producing herbs, the local market is limited; but the industry may be developed indefinitely in view of the favorable climatic conditions of those sections of Spain where the plants flourish. In 1916 the declared exports of essential oils from Malaga to the United States were valued at \$176,164; those from Almeria, at \$21,920; and those from Barcelona, at \$13,220.

Persons who correspond with exporters in this country should employ the Spanish language.

[Lists of exporters of olive oil and essential oils in Spain may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 95160b. An article on the production of olives and olive oil in Spain appeared in **COMMERCE REPORTS** for June 23, 1917.]

GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS FOR SALE.

The following were among the publications received in stock for sale by the Superintendent of Documents at Washington during the week ended December 1, 1917:

Selective Service Regulations.—Prescribed by the President Under the Authority Vested in Him by the Terms of the Selective Service Law (Act of Congress approved May 18, 1917).—Covers the new draft regulations, including general rules and regulations, selective service system, registration, classification rules and principles, process of selection, special and exceptional cases, mobilization, physical examination, disbursement regulations, forms, master list, statutes, exempted officials, etc., with a foreword by the President of the United States. Price, 10 cents.

Cotton Goods in British India, part 4.—Bombay Presidency (Special Agents Series 149).—Covers area, population, general survey of cotton goods trade, special lines tariff trade methods, etc. Price, 15 cents.

Argentine Market for Motor Vehicles (Miscellaneous series 62).—Includes factors affecting motor-vehicle trade in Argentina, imports, demand for motor trucks, farm tractors, sales methods, etc. Price, 5 cents.

Mechanical Properties of Red Wood (Forest Circular 193, reprint).—Covers the red wood of commerce, tests, uses, grading, etc. Price, 5 cents.

There is a fair demand in Mazatlan suitable for making kimonos, wrap coats, petticoats, and similar apparel all year, from November to April. Throughout the year for knit piece goods and women's vests.

On account of the high cost of material due to transportation and tariff charged to the importation of these goods buyers are in a position to handle such lines.

Spent upon piece goods for almost all items as men's collars, ties, and so on. Most of the clothing is made up in the home public or private tailoring shops.

Previous to the outbreak of the Mexican Revolution piece goods of all kinds were imported. The trade has now been diverted to Mazatlan. To the fair share that already was principally jobbing houses in Los Angeles. It is worthy of note that the added business goes to the same houses that supplied the trade.

Means of Developing Trade.

Personal acquaintance between buyers and their representatives, and customer service for the maintenance of profitable business, as well as a number of other lines, advertising is that of laying large orders. Prospective purchasers, courteously presented. Spanish. Prompt attention to orders. Careful adherence to samples tends to secure permanent connections.

In general, dealers are paying cash for goods in quantities which result in large export regularly to Mazatlan.

An important feature of this port is its point for a number of coast towns, all dependent upon Mazatlan for their supplies.

Correspondence with dealers here is handled by the

[A list of importers of dry goods at Mazatlan is in Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, Washington, D. C. Refer to file No. 85073b.]

OFFICES OF THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE

DISTRICT OFFICES.

NEW YORK: 784 Customhouse.
BOSTON: 1801 Customhouse.
CHICAGO: 504 Federal Building.
ST. LOUIS: 402 Third National Bank Building.
NEW ORLEANS: 1020 Hibernia Bank Building.
SAN FRANCISCO: 307 Customhouse.
BATTLER: 848 Henry Building.

Pilfering is still a great problem in the case of merchandise shipped to ports on the west coast of South America. At several ports the extent of the evil has been greatly lessened as a result of insurance embargoes on goods destined for those ports or in response to constant complaint on the part of the consignees. In Mollendo pilfering, so far as Bolivian goods are concerned, has been reduced to small proportions in consequence of an agreement between the Peruvian and Bolivian Governments which provides for the prompter dispatch of merchandise for Bolivian destination. Nevertheless, the problem of pilfering remains a serious one at practically every port on the west coast.

Formerly it was the fashion to say that much of the pilfering took place in the Panama Canal Zone, and there was probably some basis for the statement in the days when traffic through the canal was stopped by the slides in Gaillard Cut and freight was badly congested at Colon and Balboa. It is probably true, however, that even in those times much of the loss attributed to pilfering was due to unusual handling or exposure. Since traffic through the canal has been resumed on a normal basis the loss from pilfering in the Canal Zone has been reduced to an almost negligible point.

Precautions Taken in Canal Zone.

Goods transshipped at Colon or Balboa are stored in pier sheds immediately upon discharge. The sheds are large, well built, fire-proof, and can be easily guarded and protected. Both in the discharge from ship to pier and in the reloading from pier to ship the Panama Railroad Co. exercises strict supervision over all operations, since it has charge of all port facilities and does most of the stevedoring. To protect itself against claims for loss the railroad company long since instituted an elaborate checking system. Checkers not only take account of the number and weight of cases and packages loaded or unloaded on the piers but also note the condition of the containers as they pass over the piers and put aside for careful inspection cases that appear to be under weight or to have been tampered with. In many instances pilfering can be detected by a difference in the recorded weight and the weight on arrival in Panama, though pilferers are clever enough, as a rule, to substitute articles of the same weight for those they have abstracted.

Moreover, a number of watchmen and detectives are employed by the Panama Railroad Co. Some of the detectives work as dock laborers. The watchmen can not be in all parts of the pier sheds, and in a far corner of a shed or a hold the stevedores may handle a case with such roughness as to cause it to break open, enabling its contents to be easily carried off. Detectives can exert an effective restraining influence in such cases.

It is clear, then, that the precautions against pilfering in the Panama Canal Zone are extensive and effective and that the source of the pilfering must be sought for elsewhere.

Pilfering on Shipboard and at Port of Destination.

It may be reasonably assumed that much of the pilfering now takes place on shipboard between Panama and west coast ports. This is

The most effective remedy that can be applied at once is the adoption of special methods of packing. It goes without saying that a well-packed, well-strapped case made of good, substantial lumber is less liable to pilfering than a poorly packed, poorly strapped case made of thin lumber. And the American exporter should always remember that merchandise shipped to the west coast demands the very best packing possible, since it is subjected to frequent, and in many instances very rough, handling (1) in the transfer from ship to pier and later from pier to ship, with perhaps a few shiftings between times at Panama; (2) in the discharge from ship to lighter at port of final destination, especially in rough weather; (3) in discharge from lighter to dock; (4) in the handling from the dock to the customhouse where the case is opened for inspection; and (5) in the trucking from the customhouse to the warehouse of the consignee. If the merchandise is destined for interior points, it receives several more handlings.

In addition to being made of good lumber, the case should be packed snugly so as to permit no shifting of contents. To insure this the case should be made with special regard to the size of the articles it is to carry and, in many instances, should have partitions or braces to prevent shifting. Partitions also make the case stronger and prevent the pilferer from getting access to the whole case.

Wooden battens around all edges of the case not only strengthen the case but also add to the difficulties of the pilferer.

Metal straps also tend to make a case pilfer proof as well as stronger. The straps should be fairly thick and wide, the thickness and width varying, of course, with the size and weight of the case. Moreover, the straps should be stretched tightly around the case by means of a strap tightening and clinching machine and held to the case by nails driven at frequent intervals so as to prevent the straps from becoming loose. Good strapping is a cheap insurance against loss by pilfering.

In many instances it pays to have metal straps on the inside as well as on the outside of the case. If thin, the inside straps will not interfere with the stowing of the goods in the case and will tend to hold the boards so tightly that pilferers will find it difficult to break into a case by merely bending back a board.

Another effective precaution against pilfering is to place little U-shaped metal pieces at the edges of the case. The pieces in common use on cases of European merchandise are about one-quarter inch in width and about three-quarters of an inch long on each side and are placed 4 to 6 inches apart. The lower side is pointed and is driven through and clinched, while the upper side is held by a nail. These pieces should, of course, be put on before the battens are nailed on.

Efficiency of Precautions—Goods Specially Subject to Pilfering.

Breaking into a pilfer-proof case involves too much work for the great majority of pilferers, since they must first loosen or break the battens, then remove the outside straps, then take out the metal corners, and then cut, if they can, the inside straps. All of this can not

The report of the Electric Tramways and Lighting Department of the city of Wellington, New Zealand, for the year ended March 31, 1917, showed receipts for the year at \$1,011,969, compared with \$963,392 for the year previous; with working expenses at \$707,516, as compared with \$578,223 for the fiscal year 1916. The total capital invested by this Department to March 31, 1917, amounted to \$3,890,076, divided as follows: For tramways, \$3,661,822; for power supply, \$168,970; and for lighting purposes, \$59,284. The net surplus for the year 1917 was \$8,414, as compared with \$6,356. The daily average of passengers carried by the lines was 88,235, being greater than the entire population of the city.

A POSSIBLE MARKET FOR MUSK SOAPS IN ADEN.

[Consul Addison E. Southard, Aden, Arabia.]

There is a good market in Aden for laundry soaps, but for toilet soaps the demand is far less promising. Where soap is used for toilet purposes the average native finds the laundry class of soaps quite satisfactory. The small European population and a small class of natives do, however, demand a proper toilet soap. The average annual value of the imports of laundry soaps is \$57,995, and the average annual value of the imports of toilet soaps is only \$2,338.

American manufacturers are prospecting the local laundry soap market and are already supplying a good share of the annual imports.

Most of the toilet soaps imported come from the United Kingdom. A minor quantity of perfumed toilet soaps comes from the United Kingdom and France.

An investigation made of the toilet soap market reveals the possibility of building up a limited trade in cheap soap perfumed with musk. The local native, and more particularly the Arab, is very fond of strong perfumes and he is more than partial to musk. One Aden dealer is enthusiastic over the possibility of musk soap, which he could sell at a price within reach of the limited purchasing power of the mass of the native population. He thinks that a 2-ounce cake, strongly scented with musk, would best suit the trade. The shape of the cake should be oval and it should be made to retail at an average price of 6 cents. The price could be a little more.

How it Should be Packed.

The leading native perfume dealer in Aden estimates that he alone could sell from 50 to 100 gross of such soap each month. As to packing he thinks that it should come three cakes in the usual cardboard box as do most toilet soaps. The class of trade to be served would buy this soap by the single cake, but it is considered that packing the soap as suggested would meet the idea of the customer that all regular toilet soaps are so packed. Inasmuch as the soap would be sold by the cake, an attractive paper wrapper would be desirable unless it added materially to the cost of the soap.

Should any American manufacturer be sufficiently interested to send samples, it is suggested that further details be obtained from Aden before deciding upon the style of box and wrappers. A soap of this sort should find a sale among the Arab populations of other

The name of an Aden dealer of musk soap, as well as the nan interested in a product of this sort obtained from the Bureau of Foreign district and cooperative offices by

THE NEW ZEALAND O

[Consul General Alfred A.

The mail subsidy to the Aucklar for another year at the rate of \$9 voyage, and it is understood that tributes a like sum.

The conditions of the subsidy provide give New Zealand and Canadian steamers from Auckland to Vancouver points in the United States, since Canadian buyers; and it is under conditions prevail at Vancouver.

PROPOSALS FOR GOVERNMENT

[Correspondence should be direct with the information can usually be obtained at the the work is to be performed. In cases where to submit tenders, they should ask to be placed notices calling for future supplies or

Boiler tubes, No. 4949.—Sealed proposals Inspector, Milwaukee, Wis., until steel hot-drawn boiler tubes, 3½ in

Panama Canal supplies, No. 4950.—Se office of the General Purchasing C D. C., until December 17, 1917. charges, on dock at either Colon (2 Canal Zone) (Pacific port), Isth Steel reinforcing bars, electric cable panel boards, electric fittings and cable jacks, ground clamps, fiber linen tape, insulating compound, valves, sanitary fixtures, range scales, forges, wagon wheels, saddle glass. Refer to Circular 1188.

Wood desks, No. 4951.—Sealed proposals Architect's Office, Treasury Department, 20, 1917, for wood desks for Federal

Vessels, No. 4952.—Sealed proposals Commissioner of Lighthouses, Washington, for a fixed sum, the money for the construction, equipment, cost single-screw, steel, steam-propelled on the Great Lakes, to an authorized Lighthouses at their place of construction

Jetty work, No. 4953.—Sealed proposals Engineer Office, Masonic Temple, for furnishing about 62,000 tons of jetties at entrance to St. Johns River

Chain cable, No. 4954.—Sealed proposals Inspector, Detroit, Mich., for furnishing for lighthouse vessels.

tive offices. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and state **opportunity number.** The Bureau does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases. Symbols: * Reported by American consular officers; † Reported by commercial attachés and commercial agents; ‡ Direct inquiries received by the Bureau.

In considering the following "opportunities" special regard should be had to the laws and regulations governing export licenses and trading with the enemy.

Agricultural machinery-----	26011	Machinery-----	26011
Bicycles and accessories-----	26011	Matches-----	26009
Chemical products-----	26017	Naval stores-----	26012
Cocoa-----	26013	Oils-----	26010
Electric machinery and apparatus--	26011,	Saccharin-----	26016
	26014	Serges-----	26015
Hosiery-----	26015	Underwear-----	26015
Linen goods-----	26015		

26009.*—A man in Ireland desires to purchase or secure an agency for the sale of lucifer and safety matches. Samples should be submitted. If c. i. f. quotations can not be made, f. o. b. port of shipment will be accepted. Purchases will be paid for one month from date of arrival, goods on commission will be paid for by cash in two months. Reference.

26010.*—A man in India is in the market for lubricating oils. Payment will be made by cash against documents or confirmed bank credits opened in New York. Correspondence may be in English. Reference.

26011.*—An agency is desired by a man in the Netherlands for the sale of electrical appliances of every description, machinery, agricultural machinery, bicycles, and accessories. Correspondence should be in Dutch or French. Reference.

26012.*—A man in Spain desires to purchase or secure an agency for the sale of naval stores, such as asbestos packing of all kinds, manila rope from 2 to 8 inches in circumference, and galvanized flexible steel cable, 6 strands of 19 wires each and one central core of tarred hemp. Quotations should be made f. o. b. New York. Payment will be made in 90 days. Correspondence should be in Spanish. Reference.

26013.*—An agency, on a commission basis, is desired by a firm in British Guiana for the sale of cocoa packed in one-fourth, one-half, one, and five pound tins. Quotations should be made f. o. b. New York. Payment will be made in 60 days, or by cash against documents. Correspondence may be in English. References.

26014.*—A firm in Italy desires to purchase electrical machinery, such as alternators, transformers, interrupters, etc.; porcelain articles for insulation, such as reflectors, interrupters, low tension valves, etc.; electric wire conduits, the outside being brass and the inside coated with tarred compressed paper and electric meters, monophase, 200 volts, 42 periods, and 5 amperes. Quotations should be made f. o. b. New York. Payment will be made by opening credit in New York through a bank in Italy, available against shipping documents. Correspondence should be in French or Italian. Reference.

26015.*—A company in Australia wishes to buy and secure an agency for the sale of underwear for women, including silk stockings; underwear for men; linen goods; and dress serges. Quotations should be made f. o. b. Payment will be made 30 days sight of vessel, or documents against acceptance. Reference.

26016.*—A firm in England desires to purchase saccharin 550 sweet. From 100 to 500 pounds in containers holding 10 pounds each. Payment will be made by cash against documents. Reference.

26017.†—An agency is desired by a man in France for the sale of chemical products. Correspondence should be in French. Reference.

Portugal and the adjacent islands. Madeira, Porto Santo, and Azores. The withdrawal took effect on December 1, 1917.

[Intermediate and special rates of duty for articles specified in the Franco-Canadian treaty of 1907 are granted only in the case of French products shipped direct from France or from a United Kingdom port. The same condition would have to govern the granting of similar rates to Portuguese products. It is assumed that the Portuguese Government failed to concur in this condition.]

HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION IN SANTO DOMINGO.

[Consul Clement S. Edwards, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, Nov. 26.]

By executive order of the Military Government of Santo Domingo, issued on November 23, 1917, there is appropriated \$650,000, or so much thereof as may be necessary, toward the building of a trunk road to connect Santo Domingo City with Monte Cristi by way of La Vega, Moca, and Santiago.

This appropriation shall be expended on the following surveyed sections of the road:—(1) From Los Alcarrizos 20 kilometers toward La Vega, including bridges; (2) From La Vega 20 kilometers toward Santo Domingo City, including bridges; (3) From Moca to Santiago, including bridges; (4) From Navarrete to Monte Cristi, including bridges; (5) Bridges on road between Santiago and Navarrete.

Any unexpended balance after the completion of the work authorized shall revert to the funds from which the appropriation came.

The proposed work when completed will connect the capital city, Santo Domingo, with Monte Cristi in the northwest of the Republic, and will give access to the important interior cities of Santiago, Moca, and La Vega, thus furnishing an artery for the development of domestic commerce and affording a channel for the ready movement of agricultural products. This will constitute an improvement of prime importance, the lack of which has long been felt.

It is thought that about 18 months will be required for the construction after the contract is awarded, and it is at present understood to be the purpose to advertise for bids, both here and in the United States. Bids may be invited for the work as a whole or for the different sections.

COTTON GINNING IN THE UNITED STATES.

The cotton that was ginned in the United States from the growth of 1917 prior to December 1 amounted to 9,704,617 running bales, counting round as half bales and excluding linters, compared with 10,352,031 bales in the corresponding period of 1916, and 9,703,612 bales in that of 1915.

These statistics, which are compiled by the United States Bureau of the Census, include 173,339 round bales for 1917; 177,662 for 1916; and 93,361 for 1915. The number of sea-island bales is 77,638 for 1917; 102,496 for 1916; and 77,165 for 1915. The distribution of sea-island for 1917 by States is: Florida, 33,579; Georgia, 39,883; and South Carolina, 4,176.

The corrected statistics of the quantity of cotton ginned this season prior to November 14 are 8,574,316 bales.

The area of Queensland is 670,500 square miles, being more than five and a half times greater than Great Britain and Ireland. Its population, however, is only 660,000, thus it averages more than 1 square mile for each inhabitant. It has a coast line of more than 3,000 miles.

The principal city and capital of Queensland is Brisbane, situated on the Brisbane River about 18 miles from its mouth, in the southeast corner of the State and on a line running east and west through the middle of the Continent. The population of greater Brisbane is estimated at over 150,000.

The resources of the State consist of its agricultural, pastoral, fruit, and dairy products, its manufactured articles, and its mines.

In 1914 Queensland contained 23,000,000 sheep, 5,456,000 cattle, 743,000 horses, and 166,700 swine.

There was a considerable reduction from these figures during the years 1915 and 1916, owing largely to the increased demand caused by the war. Another cause was extensive droughts.

Exports from Queensland.

The following table shows the principal articles exported from Queensland for the year 1915-16, with their quantities and values.

Articles.	Quantities.	Value.	Articles.	Quantities.	Value.
Butter.....lbs..	2,353,989	\$663,000	Lead matte.....cwt..	9,640	\$64,505
Cheese.....do....	66,160	18,500	Tin ore and concentrates, c t.....	13,845	364,944
Bacon and hams...do....	467,172	136,530	Wolf-ram.....cwt..	885	27,929
Frozen beef.....do....	113,872,655	10,496,550	Sil er matte.....ozs..	41,579	30,970
Frozen lamb.....do....	140,373	16,110	Tin ingots.....c t..	3,374	133,615
Frozen mutton...do....	10,032,804	853,300	Manufactures of leat'er and articles of leather.....		74,905
Poultry and game..do....	3,787,514	298,690	Wood and wic'er ware, manufactures thereof.....		82,830
Tinned meats.....do....	7,570,433	1,388,610	Wool.....lbs..	68,889,239	19,096,072
Jams and jellies...do....	22,356	1,921			
Copper matte.....cwt..	85,824	1,753,690			
Gold, bar and dust...ozs..	1,435	11,060			
Gold in matte.....do....	6,945	135,140			

The total revenue collected on imports into the State of Queensland for the year 1915-16 was \$8,015,840, the value of the goods being \$34,070,030. The total value of exports for the same period was \$39,447,500.

Output of Crops—Mineral Resources.

The yield of wheat per acre in Queensland during the season of 1916-17 was 10.82 bushels. The season of 1901-2—a banner year—gave an average yield per acre of 19.40 bushels. The total yield of wheat for the 1916-17 season was 2,463,141 bushels. The average annual yield for barley is 105,615 bushels; of corn, 4,260,673 bushels; potatoes, 29,195 tons; and hay, 102,193 tons. It is estimated that the amount of sugar cane produced during the present season will reach 2,900,000 tons.

Aluminium, antimony, arsenic, bismuth, gold, iron, lead, magnesium, molybdenum, phosphorus, potassium, silicon, silver, tungsten, and zinc are all found in the State of Queensland. Platinum is found, but in small quantities.

Honduran tobacco has always enjoyed a preeminent position in the estimation of Central American tobacco smokers, so much so that native tobaccos of the neighboring Republics are often put on the market under the name of "Tobaco de Honduras" for the purpose of obtaining higher prices. It is commercially known as "Copan tobacco," because the best quality and largest quantities are produced in the Department of Copan, which borders on both the Guatamalan and Salvadoran frontiers. It is also produced in commercial quantities in the Departments of Ocotepeque, Gracias, Santa Barbara, and El Paraiso, the capitals of the respective Departments being the marketing centers. The estimated average annual production of each district is as follows: Paraiso, 7,500 pounds; Santa Barbara, 250,000 pounds; Gracias, 50,000 pounds; Ocotepeque, 410,000 pounds; and Copan, 1,000,000 pounds.

Planting, Harvesting, and Curing.

Tobacco is planted during October—that is, from 2 to 4 weeks before the close of the rainy season—so that the young plants have sufficient time to take root before the long dry season sets in. The seeds are planted in nurseries during July and the young sets transplanted about 4 months later. One pound of seed should produce approximately 20,000 plants, and growers place about 2,250 plants to the acre.

The leaves are ready for gathering between February and April and the custom is to start harvesting as soon as the plant has fully developed; this is sometimes determined by the appearance of yellow tints in the leaves or when the leaves show signs of brittleness on being doubled or bent. The stock is cut whole a little above the roots and the seed is obtained later from the suckers that sprout from the remaining lower part of the stem. The stocks are then hung out, head down, in the open air and exposed to the sun. If any is harvested in the rainy season, which is rare, it is dried in the shade. After being dried in the sun for 15 or 20 days the stocks are subjected to a 3-day pressing, and the leaves are then separated from the stems and assorted into 3 grades, according to size. They are then tied in bundles of 1 pound each—the stems being utilized for fastening—and are alternately pressed and sunned until the veins are thoroughly dried. Owing to negligence and the varying judgments of different farmers the resulting product is not always uniform, which sometimes results in obtaining lower prices. Dried leaves average from 9 to 20 inches in length, and a well-cultivated acre should yield from 400 to 650 pounds.

Both strong and mild and dark and light tobaccos are produced, these properties depending largely upon the nature of the soil and to a somewhat lesser extent upon the amount of rainfall and the time and method chosen for cutting and curing. If the plants are permitted to ripen thoroughly the leaves will be rather dark in color, whereas if cut earlier a lighter shade will be obtained. A poor, sandy soil is said to produce a mild tobacco and a rich clay soil a somewhat stronger plant. In seasons of copious rainfall it is noticed that the leaves are invariably of a darker hue.

It costs from 8 to 12 cents United States currency to raise a pound of tobacco in this country, and the market price ranges from 15 to 25 cents, depending on the class and quality. It is supposed that most of the tobacco in cultivation in Honduras was originally derived from Cuban seed, and the more progressive growers still continue to import Cuban, Jamaican, Porto Rican, and American seed. When ready for market Honduran tobacco closely resembles that grown in North Carolina and Virginia. It burns well and has a pleasant aroma, and connoisseurs state that its failure to achieve just recognition of its worth is due solely to the primitive and unscientific methods employed in its harvesting and curing.

Methods of Packing—Export Trade in Tobacco.

Tobacco is packed for shipment in bales of 100 pounds each, which are well wrapped in several layers of banana leaves and tightly tied with strong banana fiber. Although apparently crude, this method of packing is considered the most practical, combining as it does the qualities of lightness and cheapness.

As the tobacco fields of this country are in closer proximity to the railroads and seaports of Salvador and Guatemala than to those of Honduras, nearly all the crop is strapped on the backs of native Indian runners or mules and carried over the frontier trails to the neighboring Republics. These caravans pass the border at remote hamlets, where no customhouses are established, so that statistics showing the volume of this trade are not available. However, it is well known that practically all of the high-grade cigars and cigarettes manufactured in Central America are either of pure Honduran tobacco or contain a large admixture of same. The amount and value of tobacco exports through the seaports of this country for the years 1915 and 1916, respectively, were 56,800 pounds, worth \$6,810, and 89,025 pounds, worth \$19,610.

Honduras tobacco, after being manufactured into cigars and cigarettes in Guatemala and Salvador, is exported in considerable quantities to South America, particularly Peru, the Caribbean countries, and Europe. The volume of this business amounts to many thousands of dollars annually.

Efforts Made to Expand Industry and Markets.

Of recent years the National Government has taken measures to foster the industry, and aside from maintaining several schools where young natives are taught to scientifically cultivate and cure the crop, steps are being taken to improve the quality of the plants and to find new outlets for the constantly increasing production. The Government recently sent several youths to the tobacco districts of Cuba, where they were able to observe and study the up-to-date methods employed there in the various branches of the industry.

Tobacco is principally used in Central America for cigars and cigarettes; pipe smoking and chewing have not been introduced among the natives, although nearly all of them, including minors and women, smoke. Among the laboring classes the women of nearly every household prepare the cigars and cigarettes for the family needs. During the fiscal year 1914-15 \$7,480 worth of cigarette paper was imported, the greater part of this supply com-

Germany.

Up to the present no attempts have been made to manufacture high-grade cigars or cigarettes on a large scale, although with an abundance of raw material and cheap labor it would seem to warrant a careful investigation on the part of expert tobacco men from the United States. Nearly every man and woman of the laboring class understands the rudiments of cigar making, although none of them are particularly expert at it. However, they are nimble with their fingers and very handy at such work and could soon be trained to turn out as good cigars as are manufactured in Cuba. An almost unlimited supply of this labor could be obtained at from 25 to 50 cents per day. Cigar factories in Guatamala utilize native labor and their goods (Honduras tobacco with Sumatra wrappers) are said to compare favorably with those of many factories in Cuba, Porto Rica, and the Philippines.

In addition to supplying the demand for good cigars in Honduras itself, a profitable market could be worked up among the other Central American Republics which are now dependent upon Cuba, Jamaica, and the United States for these goods.

Machinery for Cigarette Factory.

A firm [whose name can be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district or cooperative offices by referring to file No. 94989] recently obtained a concession from the Government for the establishment of a cigarette factory at Tegucigalpa. This firm has placed orders in the United States for a considerable amount of modern machinery and equipment. Although it is proposed to manufacture cigarettes for the local market, the firm has contracted to export considerable quantities to Panama and the Canal Zone, where it is expected that it will fulfill the present strong demand for a cheap cigarette among the negro laborers.

NATIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FOR CHILE.

[Consul General L. J. Keena, Valparaiso, Oct. 29.]

There is a movement on foot to organize a National Chamber of Commerce for Chile, in Valparaiso. El Mercurio, of Valparaiso, in the issue of October 27, publishes the invitation to the commercial public to join in the organization of such a chamber issued by the committee of organization.

The objects of the proposed chamber are, primarily, to act as an advisory body for the Government on all questions relating to national production, exportation, commercial legislation, commercial education, port developments, and international banking and commerce, and to make a general study of all factors directly affecting Chilean commerce, Chilean merchants, and Chilean industries.

The work undertaken by this projected chamber would be done in connection with the already established chambers of commerce, boards of trade, commercial and industrial development societies, and similar organizations, and an effort would be made to centralize, in this National Chamber of Commerce, the work done by those various bodies.

its enactment has been delayed.

CANADA.

Restrictions on Importation of Firearms.

A memorandum issued by the Canadian Commissioner of Customs on November 6, 1917, calls attention to the provisions of the Customs Act requiring permission for the importation of firearms. Collectors of customs are therefore instructed not to deliver firearms to any importer other than a recognized dealer without a permit from one of certain specified officers.

CHILE.

[Special Agent Grosvenor M. Jones, Concepcion, Sept. 27.]

Declaration of Automobile Weights.

Considerable difficulty has been experienced by Chilean importers of American automobiles by reason of the failure to state the exact weight of the shipment. The inaccuracy is generally due to the fact that an extra wheel or other part has been included without account having been taken of the added weight. In practice the Chilean customs officials allow a variation of only one-half of 1 per cent in weight, and any excess is subject to fine. It is important therefore that great care be exercised in stating weights. It is suggested that errors of this kind could be avoided if the shipping order in the factory carried a note stamped in red ink or otherwise marked to indicate to both the billing and the shipping departments that the case contained extra parts and that the stated weights should be correspondingly increased.

ITALY.

[Consul General David F. Wilber, Genoa, Oct. 20.]

Prohibited Importation of Firearms.

The Genoa Port Bulletin for October 1 contains a communication from the Ministry of Finance giving notice that no firearms, of whatever origin, can be imported into Italy without a special permit from the Ministry. Importers must make a formal application for permission in each individual case. Arms imported by the military authorities are exempt from this regulation.

MEXICO.

[El Economista, Mexico City, Nov. 7.]

Reduction in Duty on Soap.

The duty on soap specified in item 694 of the Mexican customs tariff, which includes laundry soap and unscented soap in general, other than toilet soap, has been reduced from 0.10 peso to 0.05 peso per kilo (from \$2.26 to \$1.13 per 100 pounds) legal weight, by a decree of November 6, 1917. By the same decree, the export duty on coffee of all kinds is reduced from 0.05 peso to 0.025 peso per kilo gross weight.

[As stated in Foreign Tariff Notes No. 19, p. 49, common unscented soap was made free of duty by a decree of September 29, 1915, but this exemption was by implication repealed upon the adoption of the new tariff in 1916.]

Drawback on Exported Barrels.

A drawback of 75 per cent of the duties paid on barrels imported into Nicaragua empty will be allowed upon their exportation when containing products of the country, under the terms of a customs circular of August 23, 1917. This is an extension of the provisions of the circular of May 20, 1915, granting a similar drawback on staves, hoops, and tins when used in the form of containers for the exportation of national products.

PARAGUAY.

Proposed Treaty with Uruguay.

La Prensa, of Buenos Aires, contains in its issue of October 19, 1917, a statement of the terms of a proposed commercial treaty between Uruguay and Paraguay. Reciprocal exemption from import and export duties is to be granted for fruits, vegetables, lard, cheese, wood other than sawed lumber, vegetable tanning extracts, coal, posts, poultry, and live animals. It is also proposed that goods in transit through one country to or from the other shall be free of warehouse charges for the period of one year, and that such goods shall be subject to the minimum scale of port charges. The proposed treaty is not regarded as of great importance, because of the limited amount of commerce between Uruguay and Paraguay, but the provisions regarding goods in transit may facilitate the foreign commerce of Paraguay with other countries.

URUGUAY.

[Consul William Dawson, Montevideo, Sept. 28.]

Regulations for Landing Inflammables.

New facilities are made available for the unloading of gasoline and other inflammable substances at Montevideo by a decree of September 24, 1917. Heretofore vessels arriving with even a small quantity of gasoline in their cargo have been compelled to discharge it into lighters in the open roads, with the result that often the entire cargo was discharged in the roads, even in rough weather. Vessels with a full cargo of gasoline or other inflammable substances other than kerosene may now unload at docks assigned them, while vessels carrying only a part cargo of such goods may work in the outer port, which is sheltered. Special facilities for unloading kerosene are also granted.

[Consul William Dawson, Montevideo, Oct. 1.]

Proposed Protection for Corset Industry.

A petition has been presented to the Minister of Industries by the Uruguayan Industrial Union, recommending that the bill to increase the duties on corsets, introduced in 1915, be again brought before the national congress. The present duties on corsets, inclusive of surtaxes, are \$4.17 per dozen for common quality, \$8.98 for fine, and \$23.10 per dozen for those of silk, all of the duties being computed at the rate of 62 per cent on fixed official valuations. In place of these it is proposed to substitute specific duties of \$15.53 per dozen for

tion of the Industrial Union it is claimed that while common corsets are now dutiable at about 34 cents each, the materials entering into their manufacture when imported separately are subject to duties amounting to about 97 cents for each corset. The correctness of this statement has been questioned by certain importers, who claim that the duties on the component materials when imported separately for manufacture within the country amount to only about \$1.81 per dozen. The domestic output is not definitely known, but in 1915 the annual production was stated to be 2,000 dozen. The imports in 1915 amounted to 2,488 dozen.

DISTILLATION OF RUM IN MAURITIUS.

[Consul James G. Carter, Tananarive, Madagascar.]

The production of rum in Mauritius amounted to about 1,000,000 liters annually during the five years preceding the war, and at present it amounts to about 1,500,000 liters, the greater part of which is consumed locally. (Liter=0.26 gallon.) It is claimed that previous to the occupation of Madagascar by the French in 1895 this island afforded a large and profitable market for Mauritius rum, the production of which then amounted to several million liters a year.

Mauritius rum is made exclusively from molasses or from the residue of ground sugar cane from which sugar has been extracted. The process of distilling rum from pure sugar-cane juice, as in the West Indies, is not employed, principally because there is greater profit in using this juice for sugar.

Local Methods of Manufacture.

A rather primitive process is the only one employed in Mauritius for the distillation of the rum for local consumption, or that intended for export. The only difference between the rum consumed locally and that which is exported is in the alcoholic content. No ingredient is customarily used in the distillation of Mauritius rum in order to affect its taste or change its color, although in rare instances merchants employ caramel for coloring rum intended for the United Kingdom.

The following is an extract from a discussion of the fermentation and distillation of rum in Mauritius, taken from an article on the industry by Mr. James Bax, of the Central Rum Warehouse of Mauritius, which appeared in *Mauritius Illustrated* by Macmillan, published by W. H. & L. Collinridge, of London, in 1914:

The process of producing fermentation in molasses is carried on in a very haphazard manner, the employment of pure ferments being unknown. Suffice it to say that to obtain ferment a certain quantity of molasses at 40° Beaumé is placed in a vessel to which water is added to reduce it to 10° Beaumé, and there it is left to ferment.

When the first ferment is obtained, no matter what may be its alcoholic density, it is gradually added to until a sufficient quantity is obtained for charging the basins. These are leaded receptacles, rectangular in shape, in which the molasses is diluted down to 10° Beaumé. When the dilution has been thoroughly made the ferment is introduced. Fermentation soon spreads throughout the mass of liquid; lasts from 36 to 48 hours according to the season, and generally falls to 3° or 4° Beaumé.

After the fermentation is over the must is sent to the distillery. The apparatus in use is somewhat primitive and the principal parts of it are 2 heat-

A new type of locomotive has been employed on the Woodville-Taihape section of the Main Trunk Railway of New Zealand during the past three months. The first of the class was constructed at the Government workshops at Dunedin for service on the Canterbury Plains some two years ago. When tried over the level country between Christchurch and Oamaru the new engine gave such excellent results that it was decided to try it over the sharply graded section between Oamaru and Dunedin, and there again it satisfied all tests. Four of the new engines were sent to North Island some months ago and have been employed on the Wellington-Taihape section with good results. It appears that this engine can travel farther than the compound engine without taking in water, and that it has a greater hauling capacity.

MEDALS AWARDED BY UNITED STATES TO FRENCH PILOTS.

[Consul John Ball Osborne, Havre, Nov. 13.]

The Havre consulate on February 26, 1917, reported a gallant rescue from drowning of a member of the crew of the American steamship *Suruga* by the crew of the Havre pilot boat *No. 27*, and recommended that suitable rewards be made by our Government to three French pilots—Jean Renouf, Julien Capard, and Louis Quehé. To-day the consulate received a visit from Pilot Renouf, who came on behalf of himself and the two others to express gratitude for the handsome gold medal which each has received from the President of the United States, through the French naval authorities at Havre. The action taken by the United States has created intense satisfaction among the French mariners of this port.

MARKET DESIRED FOR TANNING BARKS.

The consul general at Sydney, Australia, has transmitted the name of a person who desires to be placed in communication with American tanners wishing to import tanning material. The shipper says he is in a position to export several thousand tons monthly for an indefinite period, and that the boats can load in the midst of the production area, which gives them a great advantage. The name and address of the inquirer can be obtained at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district or cooperative offices by referring to file No. 94727.

New Corporations Formed in Sweden.

Commercial Attaché Erwin W. Thompson reports from Copenhagen, Denmark, under date of October 27 that according to a report of the Minister of Finance for the last quarter, 263 new corporations have been formed in Sweden, with a combined capital stock of \$17,000,000, and existing companies have increased capital stock \$54,000,000.

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Reserved addresses may be obtained from the Bureau and its district and cooperative offices. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and state opportunity number. The Bureau does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases. Symbols: * Reported by American consular officers; † Reported by commercial attachés and commercial agents; ‡ Direct inquiries received by the Bureau.

In considering the following "opportunities" special regard should be had to the laws and regulations governing export licenses and trading with the enemy.

Automobile supplies.....	26019	Hosiery.....	26026
Clothing.....	26026	Iron, steel, and brass.....	26018, 26020
Coloring materials.....	26022	Leather and leather goods.....	26018, 26026
Dry goods.....	26019	Lithopone.....	26025
Electric lamps.....	26024	Oils and greases.....	26018, 26019
Food products.....	26027	Piece goods.....	26026
General merchandise.....	26019	Specialties.....	26026
General representation.....	26027	Tinplate.....	26021, 26025
Hardware.....	26019, 26026	Tools.....	26019

26018.*—A firm in Italy desires to secure an agency for the sale of cottonseed oil and other vegetable seed oils; coffee; leather, especially calf kid, and chrome; canned goods; and iron, steel, and brass, rough and worked. Payment will be made against shipping documents. Credit will be opened at a bank when giving order, available against shipping documents. Correspondence should be in French or Italian. References.

26019.†—A man from Cuba who will be in the United States for a short time, desires to represent American manufacturers and exporters of general merchandise, especially dry goods, hardware, tools, automobile supplies, and lubricating oils and greases. Correspondence may be in English. References.

26020.*—A firm in France is in the market for 20 tons of bright tinued iron, 710 millimeters long, 510 millimeters wide, and 26/100 millimeters thick; also 20 additional tons of same kind, except thickness which must be 27/100 millimeters. Quotations should be made f. o. b. New York. Payment will be made by cash in 30 days. Correspondence may be in English. References.

26021.*—A man in India wishes to buy tin plate. He also desires to entertain an agency proposition for the sale of same. Payment will be made by cash against documents. Correspondence may be in English. Reference.

26022.*—A man in Italy desires to purchase coloring materials, especially blue, green, sky blue, anilines, etc. Correspondence should be in French or Italian.

26023.*—A firm in Portugal wishes to buy tin plate. It also desires to secure an agency for the sale of same. Quotations should be made f. o. b. American port. Credit will be opened in New York for payment. Correspondence may be in English. References.

26024.*—A company in England desires to secure an agency for the sale of drawn-wire lamps of 110 and 220 volts, the lamps to be pear shaped. About 10,000 of these will be required. Quotations should be made f. o. b. New York for Calcutta, India. Reference.

26025.*—A man in Scotland wishes to purchase large quantities of lithopone for use in the manufacture of linoleum. Payment will be made by cash or 90-days draft.

26026.*—An agency is desired by a man in South Africa for the sale of hardware, leather goods, piece goods, hosiery, ready-made clothing, and specialties. Quotations may be made f. o. b. New York. Payment will be arranged with bank satisfactory to shipper. Correspondence may be in English. Reference.

26027.‡—An importer in France wishes to be placed in communication with American manufacturers and exporters, especially of food products, with a view to representing them in that country on a commission basis. Correspondence may be in English. References.



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TAMPICO OIL SHIPMENTS FOR OCTOBER.

[Consul Claude I. Dawson, Tampico, Mexico, Nov. 23.]

Declared exports of crude oil and petroleum products from the Tampico district to the United States in October amounted to 3,150,064 barrels. The movement from Tampico was 2,494,594 barrels and from Tuxpam 655,470 barrels.

Shipments to points other than the United States were reported as 847,825 barrels. The gross shipments therefore reached 3,997,889 barrels.

Tampico shipments included refined products as follows: Reduced, crude, 676,156 barrels; topped, crude, 21,000 barrels; distillate, 147,000 barrels; and gasoline, 420 barrels.

As heretofore, Tuxpam shipments include only crude oil, the topping plants at that port not being ready for operation.

The distribution of oil shipments by destination during October was as follows:

Destination.	From Tampico.	From Tuxpam.	Destination.	From Tampico.	From Tuxpam.
	<i>Barrels.</i>	<i>Barrels.</i>		<i>Barrels.</i>	<i>Barrels.</i>
United States.....	2,494,594	655,470	Chile.....	297,361	
Panama.....	70,001		Guatemala.....	49,925	
Argentina.....	18,67	40,324	Mexico.....		221,627
England.....	86,428		Total.....	3,080,468	917,421
Honduras.....	28,012				
Uruguay.....	35,501				

EXPORTS TO UNITED STATES FROM SAN LUIS POTOSI, MEXICO.

[Consul Cornelius Ferris, Jr., San Luis Potosi, Nov. 16.]

The declared exports from the San Luis Potosi consular district to the United States during the first nine months of 1917 amounted to \$1,226,473. The principal items were: Antimony, matte, \$88,474; ixtle fiber, \$377,038; ixtle cordage, \$14,152; dry cattle hides, \$199,917; goatskins, \$142,100; quicksilver, \$57,202; crude rubber, \$154,727; chile, \$18,227, and beans, \$132,541.

According to statistics
and Domestic Commerce
exports by great groups
months ended October

Groups.

IMPORTS.

Crude materials for use in manufactures
Foodstuffs in crude condition
Foodstuffs partly or wholly manufactured
Manufactures for further use in manufactures
Manufactures ready for consumption
Miscellaneous.....

Total imports.....

EXPORTS.

Crude materials for use in manufactures
Foodstuffs in crude condition
Foodstuffs partly or wholly manufactured
Manufactures for further use in manufactures
Manufactures ready for consumption
Miscellaneous.....

Total domestic exports.....
Foreign merchandise exported.....

Total exports.....

Exports of principal
for October, 1917,
seeds, \$352,767; and
\$30,224,569; mules, \$

NEW FIRM TO EXPORT

[H. S. Waterman,

The Produce Trading
has just been organized
with the United States
Bergen business men

The company is to
oleo, lard, meat, and
machinery, metals, and
export to the United
paper, wood pulp, etc.
cities of Norway (Trond-
Arendal, Aalesund, and
Scandinavia. The com-
normal exchange) in
of freight-carrying.

It is not the intention
to get the agencies
in the United States.
The company would
ican merchants and
tions. These can be
Broadway; Olaf N.

The Minister of Finance, with the approval of the President of Peru, has submitted to the National Legislature a bill providing for the issue of gold certificates, the amount of which is not to exceed £4,000,000 (\$19,466,000). In a recent number of **COMMERCE REPORTS** mention was made of an act by which the National Legislature of Peru provided for an issue of gold certificates of small denomination to the value of £500,000. This legislation had for its purpose the provision of a sound paper currency of small denomination that would serve as a substitute for the silver subsidiary coins, these having disappeared from circulation as a direct result of the rise in the value of silver bullion the world over.

The bill now submitted is not only an elaboration of the former legislation but proposes an issue of gold certificates of both large and small denominations, which will circulate freely with metallic currency, and has for its purpose both the provision of an ample circulating medium of sound character and the regulation of exchange, which is being affected by the restrictions placed on the movements of gold by the belligerent countries.

An important part of the gold reserve against which the certificates provided for in the bill are to be issued will be in the form of a deposit in the Federal Reserve Bank of New York. This deposit will be constituted by payments effected from time to time in the settlement of trade balances in favor of Peru. Certificates of deposits thus made by commercial firms will be received by the Treasury Department of the Peruvian Government in exchange for gold certificates, and in this manner the actual transfer of gold will be avoided. The rate of exchange established in the bill is the par rate of £1=\$4.866. For the payment of foreign obligations merchants will be able to obtain from the Treasury Department of the Government of Peru checks against the deposit in the Federal Reserve Bank of New York in exchange for gold certificates. It is hoped that the operation of the bill, if it becomes law, will result in the maintenance of an exchange rate approximating par.

Statement by Minister of Finance.

In introducing this bill into the national legislature the minister of finance, says:

Restrictions upon the exportation of gold imposed previously in Europe and now in the United States of America have resulted in a complete interruption in the current of this metal flowing into Peru, a current that had its inception at the time we established the gold standard and has been maintained practically without intermission ever since. Though suspended for a brief period during 1914, this importation was reestablished before the end of 1915 and was of unusual proportions during 1916.

During the first 10 months of 1917 the imports of gold into Peru amounted to £2,323,821, whereas the imports for 1916 amounted to only £948,866.

This importation of gold, which represents only a fraction of the balance in favor of Peru as a result of our foreign trade, has made it possible for the Junta de Vigilancia (Monetary Commission of the Treasury Department) to increase its gold reserves from £1,084,271 to £1,527,210 during the first 10 months of 1917, and for the banks of the country to increase their gold reserves from slightly more than £700,000 on December 31, 1916, to considerably more than £1,000,000 at the close of business on the last day of October, 1917.

Not only will the restrictions placed on gold exports by the countries of Europe and North America interfere with the further accumulation of these

gold reserves, but it will affect the and these countries in a manner such considerable capital resulting legitimate and much needed for the further development.

Furthermore, these restrictions have authority, recently granted, to issue the amount of £500,000.

The law submitted by the Ministry in this situation to some extent by certificates covering not only deposits held by the Treasury, but also certificates the Federal Reserve Bank in New York. Certificates issued against deposits in vision that the certificates will drafts drawn against the Federal Reserve are deposited.

SMELT-FISHING SEA

[Consul E. Verne Richardson, Montreal]

Saturday, December 1, marks the start of the smelt fishing season on the Northumberland coast. It is too early to give an accurate picture of the returns of the first day's fishing, but at and near Chatham, both quantities and quality are most appointing. The fishermen reported they have received as much as 100 pounds of fish, while at Rexton and Ilderton they have received as much as 150 pounds of fish of unusually fine grade; the

In the recently proclaimed prohibition of certain food products (see COMMERCE REPORTS for 1917) fresh frozen fish is included. States shipments in fair average quantities, and under indorsement by consular invoices.

The export of smelts from the 1916-17 season, that is from December 1 to November 30, 1917, is shown by consular invoices to be \$95,805.

SUBSIDY FOR PAPER FACTORY

[J. F. Boomer, Manila]

A bill has been introduced in the Philippine Assembly to give an annual subsidy for the capital invested in the business of paper-making in the Philippine Islands.

The provisions of this bill provide for the creation of a Board of Infant Industries, which shall have the honor of the act passed during the first session of the Philippine Assembly.

Those who desire further information should address the office of the Philippine Assembly.

[An article on paper-pulp possibilities is published in COMMERCE REPORTS for Oct. 3, 1916.]

[Consul Lucien Memminger, Madras.]

A firm in Bombay which deals in talking machines has branches at Madras, Calcutta, Rangoon, Delhi, and other cities. A representative of this firm states that it has been dealing more largely in the Swiss machines than in others, because it is able to sell them at a much lower price. The Swiss machines, for example, retail at \$9.08 to \$48.67, whereas the lowest price he is able to quote on certain American machines is \$22.71, and they run as high as \$84.35. Before the war the Madras firm had agencies in all towns of any importance in the Madras Presidency, such as Madura, 134,130 inhabitants; Tanjore, 60,341; Trichinopoly, 123,512; Rajahmundry, 48,417; Bezwada, 32,867; Guntur, 40,529; and Negapatam, 60,168. These agencies have been closed, as the business fell off during the war on account of the difficulty of obtaining supplies regularly, and the higher cost of manufacturing, transportation, insurance rates, etc., which necessitated higher retail prices locally. There has been also a certain tightness of money, causing a reduced demand for such articles as might be considered luxuries.

Extent of Demand in Madras.

The dealer mentioned states that talking machines are very largely in use in Madras among those who have means to buy, beyond the bare necessities, certain comforts or luxuries which cost only a moderate amount. In the wealthier homes of the zamindars, rajahs, etc., a certain number of such instruments is found, but not to the same extent. Of the total population of Madras, 518,660, the merchant said about 6 per cent might be considered as possible users or purchasers of talking machines.

A large proportion of the poorer people, he said, is not unfamiliar with these instruments, even though they do not possess any, as it is a common practice for companies or individuals to tour the country, giving concerts with the machines, and taking up collections from the villagers or country people who gather to hear them. In this way the machines have penetrated into the most remote districts.

Records in the Indian Languages.

It is said that the greater number of records sold here, except among the European community, are in Indian languages—Tamil, Telugu, Marathi, Kanarese, Hindustani, etc. Of these the first two are the most generally in use in this district, Hindustani not being commonly employed in Southern India. For Europeans, however, of whom there are about 4,000 in Madras and 14,000 in the Presidency, nearly all English people, records are in English. A fair number of talking machines is found in homes of the Europeans, but probably not in as great a proportion as among the moderately well-to-do East Indians.

The merchant who has been quoted states that his firm now gets records in English from London, these being made either there or in America; while some in Hindustani are obtained by him from Bombay. He is of the opinion that Calcutta is the only place in India where records in native languages are actually being manufactured. Formerly many such records were made in Germany, as firms there

sent representatives to India to recruit leading Indian artists, and after which were then offered for sale in Native Artists Represented.

Several Indian dramatic or n throughout parts or in all of India best-known pieces are popular. I etc., also make popular records.

A list of department stores is in Madras, but also have branches at for example Ootacamund, summer galore, principal city of Mysore; State. Usually it is well to address

There are few here who deal exclusively in instruments. One music dealer, however, to considerable extent.

[A list of department stores in Madras dealer mentioned may be obtained from Commerce, its district or cooperative office]

IMPORTATION OF HAMS AND

[Consul General A. M. T.]

In regard to the importation of attention is directed to a report from MERCE REPORTS for Oct. 22, 1917] goods whose entry into this country license. The importation of hams (and bacon is now subject to the obtaining of a license for shipment, such license to be granted by the authorities. Orders for shipment may be sent to France before a license is obtained thereof the authorities may either be reshipped out of the country.

[A list of Paris importers of hams, but upon application to the Bureau of Foreign Trade and cooperative offices. Refer to file]

PHILIPPINE NEED OF

[J. F. Boomer, corr]

Long-continued ravages of rain number of carabao in the Philippine agriculture in the islands, therefore a light farm tractor to be sold at heavy tractors which sell at high the larger haciendas, but the in planters and cooperative groups have far introduced into the islands have

Manufacturers may reach this position with a machinery house now or by sending their own representatives

GROWING MACHINERY MARKET IN CHINA.

[Consul N. T. Johnson, Changsha, Oct. 1.]

Hunan offers a growing market for various types of machinery such as narrow-gauge railway equipment for mines, rock crushers, and mining machinery in general. There is a possible future market in machinery for road building and maintenance, as the question of good roads is being more and more discussed. As a rule, however, the Chinese in Hunan who need or may desire this machinery are unable to deal directly with American manufacturers in the United States. The language is the most important factor in producing this situation. Catalogues and letters in English with their cabalistic signs describing machinery and prices f. o. b. some city in the United States which is unknown to the average Chinese are almost utterly useless.

Banking and the Exchange Problem.

The lack of adequate banking facilities and the exchange problem also are factors. The average Chinese merchant at Changsha finds it well-nigh impossible to establish credits in the United States to cover purchases, because of exchange conditions. As business is on a silver basis, purchases must be made and paid for in gold, and experience shows that he is likely to have difficulties if a sudden fluctuation occurs in the exchange value of silver between the time he sends his order and the time he receives his machinery. For this reason he prefers to go to locally represented foreign manufacturers who understand his condition, who know him or can find out about him, and who will give him fairly liberal terms to enable him to buy. The foreign representative also is an expert in exchange, and is able to take the risks attendant upon purchases of this sort, and thus save the Chinese merchant the incidental worries.

Another factor is the general lack of knowledge on the part of Chinese merchants of foreign machinery and its uses. The merchant or miner knows that foreign machinery exists and that it may be purchased, but it is a very different proposition for him to be able to tell what kind of machinery he should have to meet his special needs and how much should be purchased.

Experience of a Mining Company.

A mining company which is engaged in the extraction of gold from quartz had been operating with profit by using the native stamp mills run by hand or by weak water power. It was decided to put in a foreign stamp mill, and one was ordered. It arrived at Changsha, was taken to the mines, and there installed, when it was discovered that the cost of fuel to run the powerful stamps was so great that it did not pay to use them, and so they stand unused to-day.

Of course, the Chinese merchant is becoming better equipped as time goes on. Young foreign-trained Chinese engineers are being employed, and they are learning by experience to draw up proper specifications for new machinery which is needed, but the time has not yet come when the Chinese merchant can order direct from the United States without risk. As a result he prefers to go to the local representative of a foreign manufacturer and order machinery through him.

It is the practice of our Chinese field to have on the ground to cater to the needs of the Chinese. The kind and quantity of machinery, these firms also export. The assistance given them by the easy credit terms to the Chinese.

[An article on the sale of steel in COMMERCE REPORTS for Mar. 7,

SPECIAL CATALOGUE

[Consul J. E. J.

One of the features of the catalogue exhibits located in to which they belong. As hardware will be provided on subject and arrangements will distribute these catalogues to the space used as well as for to distribute these catalogues, will be exacted from exhibit.

These catalogue exhibits Consular Catalogue Exhibit 1917], which will be the general regarding American trade. The catalogue exhibit is to bring to the interested in particular lines exact. In order to take full advantage action is necessary. Blank for B. Van Cleve, 1790 Broadway.

Two Sets of Catalogues Should be

It is most important that the catalogues. They should be the 1904 Fair, Lyon, France. Catalogues which the catalogues are to be known as "Hardware Section." It is equally important that at least be exhibited in the supplemental Lyon, France, and marked "Hardware."

There will undoubtedly be a result of the consular catalogue of the American consul at Lyon under the which is to be a feature of the trade generally, it is urged to promptly to all inquiries, to supply the material. It is a reply to a letter; and at a time are being opened to American should be given to foreign in

[Consul General George E. Anderson, Hongkong, Oct. 24.]

The market for ginseng in Hongkong and the China field generally at present is depressed and dealers look for little revival in the trade until well toward Chinese New Year. Usually there is a quickening in the trade as cool weather comes on, but so far this year, and in spite of the high exchange value of silver which ought to stimulate the trade, the sale of the root has been much below normal. Arrivals have been below normal and the demand has not kept pace with the supply. An auction of a lot of American root on consignment a month ago brought fair prices. Two days later a similar lot of as good if not better root sold for little more than half the price brought by the first lot, and private sales made later were on a still lower level. Uncertain political conditions in the interior of China are given as the chief reason for the present slump in demand, but uncertain financial conditions due to the export of silver and copper coinage from the Provinces as well as the existence of piracy and other disorders in some districts have also had material influence.

American producers of ginseng as a rule will find it to their advantage to consign their root to responsible Hongkong houses for sale when the market improves. Sales have been irregular and the market may improve at any time. The root on hand of course will get the benefit of the improvement, while that held in the United States will probably arrive too late to secure full returns. The ginseng business and all similar lines of trade in China at present are in an uncertain state and little reliance can be placed upon the continuance of any conditions.

PEANUT CROP OF SWATOW DISTRICT.

[Consul M. S. Myers, Swatow, China, Oct. 30.]

The minor peanut crop—that of the “large foreign,” which is cultivated principally in Jao-p’ing district—has been harvested and the yield is claimed to be below the average owing to drought, but is considered as slightly better than the principal crop, which was reported as being 20 to 30 per cent below the average. All crops have suffered from the lack of rain during the past three months.

The following prices are now ruling on the local market: Shelled peanuts, \$7.80 (at exchange of \$0.65) per picul (133½ pounds); peanut oil, \$16.57 per picul; and peanut cake, which is used as a fertilizer, \$3.41 per picul.

WATER STORAGE OF THE MINES IN SOUTH AFRICA.

[Consul John P. Bray, Johannesburg, Oct. 23.]

It is estimated that at the end of last December the mining properties of the Union of South Africa had a water-storage capacity of 6,393,000,000 gallons, of which the Transvaal alone accounted for 4,218,000,000. The estimated contents at that date for all of the mines amounted to 5,049,600,000 gallons, with an additional 1,281,800,000 gallons available from pans and wells.



and so have the "unenumerated minerals" of the statistics. Among these, however, are classed the carbonados, or "black diamond," from Bahia, for which the foreign demand has grow much greater than in former years.

Greater Diversity of Crops.

One of the effects of the war stringency has been to give a decided impetus to both domestic agriculture and what Brazilians call the "extractive industries," i. e., the utilization of forest and field products. The fact that many of the resorts in Europe in normal times visited by tourists are closed has caused much Brazilian money to remain in the country since 1914, and it has been wisely employed in many sections in fostering diversification of agriculture and putting under cultivation large acreages of land in food crops. Not only will this produce lucrative additions to the list of exports, but it will teach the small farmer to have faith in himself and in the land, and gradually release the country from too great a dependence upon foreign importations for the actual livelihood of its lower classes.

Development of the Export Trade in Agricultural Products.

In cotton 3,036,000 kilos were exported during the first six months of 1917, as against only 16,000 kilos during the corresponding period of 1916; but this was owing to a local stringency early in 1916, for the regular half-yearly exports, since 1913, have often been above the present year's mark in quantities exported.

The exports of rice have increased from practically nothing in former years to 20,009,000 kilos during the first six months of 1917. The shipments of sugar, amounting to 59,324 tons and valued at \$6,462,000, are greater than all former records of the past five years. Potatoes, never before worth considering as an export article, have been shipped to the amount of 1,017 tons and to a value of \$48,000. Cacao, with magnificent crop conditions in the north, has to its credit a figure of 23,622 tons exported and earnings of \$5,474,000. Mandioca, one of the best of farinaceous products in the world, which heretofore (except in the form of its by-product, tapioca) was consumed almost entirely within the country, was sold abroad to the amount of 8,295 tons, valued at \$535,000. Beans, the acreage in which has largely increased, were exported abroad to the amount of 63,244 tons, valued at \$7,046,000, during the first six months of 1917, as compared with no export whatever in former years. There are encouraging increases over the figures of former years in many of the edible fruits and oil-bearing seeds and nuts.

Large Gain in Exports of Meat.

The exportation of 35,663 tons of refrigerated meat, valued at \$8,048,000, during the first half of 1917, marks the gradual rise of an industry destined, it is believed, to be one of its greatest exports in the future. In chilled or refrigerated meat, there was none exported until 1915, when 955 tons, valued at \$165,000, were shipped in the first half year of that year. For the same period in 1916, 12,390 tons, valued at \$2,330,000, were exported. In the "jerked" or sun-dried beef, a product similar to the "biltong" of South Africa, the export during the first six months of 1917 reached 2,285 tons, compared with 8 tons in the corresponding semester of 1913 and 1,190 tons in 1916.

IRON AND STEEL IN SOUTH AFRICA.

[Consul John P. Bray, Johannesburg.]

Iron and steel in the Johannesburg district are used principally in the mining industry and construction work. The former is the pre-eminent industry of South Africa, and all other branches are closely related to it. Mining therefore creates a large demand for all kinds of iron and steel goods. Stocks which were large before the war have now been greatly depleted, and replenishment is attended with increasing difficulty. Prices have risen so high that the cost of production has necessarily been raised, but nevertheless there is a ready demand for this class of material.

A shortage has been felt at certain times this year in many articles, such as steel ropes, rails, plates, iron, etc., and at times merchants' stocks have been so absorbed as to make the question of supply acute. A tender was recently asked for the supply of 1,000 feet of wire rope, but not a single quotation was received, whereas 10 or 18 months ago it is probable that there would have been 10 or 12 offers. Rails also are said to be exceptionally scarce, and there is a shortage of pig iron.

The scarcity of certain goods has caused substitutions to be made where possible, and several small iron and steel works which were nonexistent in 1915 are now working at full speed.

Still Dependent on Foreign Sources.

Although some little progress has been made in the iron and steel industry, this country is still dependent upon foreign sources. Imports from the United Kingdom and the United States amounted in 1916 to \$4,242,148 and \$1,252,618, respectively, as compared with \$3,253,659 and \$992,601 in 1915. This tends to show that the imports at present are not affected to any great extent by the local product, and that the need of additional iron and steel is steadily increasing, notwithstanding the heavy advance in price.

The largest steel plant in the Transvaal is at Vereeniging, where every effort is being made to convert old material into new. The upbuilding of the Vereeniging industry has been greatly facilitated by the war, and the consequent rise in the price of finished material. Other determining factors have been the utilization in the United Kingdom of resources and factories for war purposes, and the scarcity of merchant ships for South Africa.

There has been, however, a slight revival in small-scale construction work during the past few months, consisting largely in the building of houses instead of larger structures. This is said to be on account of the demand for houses, and the fact that people recognize that it is useless to wait any longer for lower-priced material. A marked feature of this revival in construction has been the substitution of roofing tiles for corrugated iron.

[Lists of mining and railway material merchants and other machinery dealers in the Johannesburg district may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 95160.]

Norske Handelsbank has increased its capital stock from \$3,752,000 to \$9,916,000. The new stock is issued at 400 per cent.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the Bureau and its district and cooperative offices. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and state opportunity number. The Bureau does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases. Symbols: * Reported by American consular officers; † Reported by commercial attachés and commercial agents; ‡ Direct inquiries received by the Bureau.

In considering the following "opportunities" special regard should be had to the laws and regulations governing export licenses and trading with the enemy.

Chemical products-----	26030	Machinery-----	26036
Condensed milk-----	26034	Metals-----	26030
Dental supplies-----	26031	Oils-----	26030
Electric locomotive and equipment-----	26029	Printing presses and supplies-----	26032
Electrical supplies-----	26033	Rubber-----	26030
Hardware and specialties-----	26037	Tin plate-----	26028
Leather and leather goods-----	26030, 26035	Tractors-----	26036
Lighting and heating devices-----	26033	Wood-----	26030

26028.*—A man in Portugal desires to purchase tin plate. Quotations should be made f. o. b. New York. Credit will be opened in New York for payment. Correspondence should be in French. Reference.

26029.*—A company in Greece wishes to buy an electric locomotive; also separate electric equipment for locomotive and electric storage batteries or accumulators for locomotive. It is desired that the locomotive be of from 40 to 50 horsepower, have a tractive force of 4,000 pounds, rail gauge 23½, necessary speed under load 9½ miles per hour, with wheel base about 3 feet and diameter of wheels 2 feet. As some of the distance to be covered by this locomotive is downhill it is desired that, if possible, motors be compound dynamo-wound in order to charge batteries under gravity on the way down. Correspondence may be in English. Quotations should be made f. o. b. New York.

26030.†—An agency on a commission basis is desired by a man in France for the sale of metals, industrial oils, chemical products, rubber, leather, and wood. Correspondence may be in English. References.

26031.*—A man in Switzerland desires to secure an agency for the sale of all kinds of dental supplies in that country, France, and Italy. Quotations should be made f. o. b. New York. Payments will be made directly by buyers. Correspondence should be in Italian or French. References.

26032.*—A firm in Tunisia is in the market for one job-printing press, paper measuring 25 by 32 centimeters, cutters, and other supplies connected with the job-printing business. Quotations should be made f. o. b. New York, with freight estimate to destination via Marseille, France. Correspondence should be in French, if possible, otherwise English. References.

26033.†—A man in France desires to purchase accessories for lighting with petroleum, alcohol heaters, oil stoves, small electrical supplies, and especially petroleum burners. He also wishes to entertain an agency proposition. Correspondence should be in French. Reference.

26034.*—An agency is desired by a company in China for the sale of condensed milk. Correspondence may be in English. References.

26035.*—A firm in India wishes to secure an agency for the sale of leather and leather goods. Quotations should be made f. o. b. port of shipment. Payment will be made by cash against documents. All business is desired on a commission basis. Correspondence may be in English. Reference.

26036.*—A man in France desires to purchase machinery for cutting down trees in a pine forest, including tractors for dragging away the trunks when cut down, two or three 5-ton tractors for carrying trunks, and two saws for cutting up logs in the forest. Correspondence should be in French. Reference.

26037.*—An agency is desired by a man in Nova Scotia for the sale of hardware, hardware specialties, etc. Correspondence may be in English. Reference.

[Commercial Attaché Frank R. Rutter, Tokyo, Nov. 16.]

Two recent steps taken by the Japanese Government illustrate the difficulties attendant upon the use of subsidiary coin whose metal value is comparatively close to its mint value. In October announcement was made that paper fractional currency would be issued to the amount of 30,000,000 yen (\$14,940,000). Early in November a portion of this issue was put in circulation. The new notes are exchangeable for regular bank notes and are legal tender up to 10 yen (\$1.98).

More recently the Japanese Government has announced three prizes, of 1,000 yen, 500 yen, and 300 yen, for the best designs submitted for a new silver 50-sen piece (24.9 cents). The new coin is to be materially smaller than the one now in circulation.

The present 50-sen piece is 80 per cent pure and weighs 2.7 momme (0.3255 ounce troy). The coin, therefore, contains 0.2604 ounce of pure silver and 0.0651 ounce of copper. At par the money value of the coin is 24.925 cents. This corresponds to 95.7 cents per ounce troy if the value of the copper is disregarded.

On September 19 the New York quotation of silver was \$1.055 per ounce. For a considerable period the excess of the bullion value over the mint value made it profitable to melt Japanese subsidiary coin or ship it to China. The country, as a consequence, became denuded of small change, and it was and is extremely difficult to get money changed except through money changers at comparatively high rates. It was no unusual thing to pay 10 sen, or even more, to change a 5-yen note; and in that case the buyer would receive four 1-yen notes and only the fraction less than a yen in subsidiary coin.

DETAILS OF PROPOSED DUTCH STEEL ENTERPRISE.

[Consul Frank W. Mahin, Amsterdam, Oct. 10.]

The plans for a smelting furnace and a steel and rolling mill at Ymuiden, at the entrance of the North Sea Canal, contemplate the construction of works provided with all the latest appliances, on a waterway navigable for large ships, as the ore to be used would be imported from foreign countries. The products of the works would be intended primarily for shipbuilding. In recent years the Dutch shipyards have used annually not less than 150,000 tons of manufactured iron, with a constantly growing demand. Large quantities also are required in bridge building, boiler works, and various other industries.

With this plant situated on a ship waterway, as at Ymuiden, convenient for both import and export activities, its products could also be cheaply and satisfactorily distributed through the country by means of the numerous canals connecting with the North Sea Canal.

Can Not Meet Full Requirements.

The preliminary plans do not indicate works capable of supplying immediately the full requirements of this country, but probably about two-thirds of the shipyards' demands will be met, with a remainder available for other industries.

Besides the principal output, attention will be given to by-products, usable as raw material by various Dutch industries. It is specially stated that the refuse of the smelting furnace will be converted into

a cement which is used in very large quantities in Holland, but which necessarily is not used in other countries.

Though the works will not be completed until it is announced that most of the (\$10,050,000) already has been secured, the Government will take a part of the cost in support in other ways.

In Charge of Preliminary Arrangement

The committee in charge of preparation of the following persons: C. J. K. Lands Trading Co. and of the Net director of the Bataafsche Petroleum Company, jr., director of the Coal-van Hemert, director of the Dutch Reinforced Concrete; J. B. A. J. van der Stoep, director of the Steamship Co.; J. A. Kalff, director of the way Companies; A. Y. Kroller, of F. S. van Nierop, director of the director of the Netherlands Factories; A. F. Philips, director of the W. F. Piek, director of the Hollandsche Bank; J. H. Wilton, director of the Twentsche Bank; J. Ruys & Zonen, management of the Nederlandsche Lloyd; H. Smulders, of the Smulders; C. F. Stork and D. W. Stork & Co.; A. J. E. Wenckebach, Government mines in Limburg; Rotterdam Bank; J. H. Wilton, and shipyard.

[A previous report on this steel-mill appeared in the *Review* of Nov. 1, 1917.]

EXPORT OF RUBBER FROM BRAZIL

[Consul George H. Phillips.]

The total exports of crude rubber from Brazil, during the month of May, 1916, amounted to 5,154,858 pounds, compared with 4,810,000 pounds in the same month in 1915. Shipments to the United States amounted to 2,322,493 pounds and to Europe 2,810,365 pounds, respectively.

The several grades of rubber exported are shown in the following table:

Grade.	From Para, Brazil.	
	To United States.	To Europe.
	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>
Fine	646,161	810,365
Medium	50,796	22,411
Coarse	463,812	41,111
Caucho	256,681	54,111
Total	1,417,450	928,000

A Spanish royal order of October 8 directs that a commission of the Directorate General of Industry and Commerce shall, within a period of four months, draw up and present to the Government a memorandum dealing with questions relating to the foreign trade of Spain.

In the preamble to this order it is stated, in effect, that in dealing with the present difficulties that confront the economic life of Spain the determination of the country will be strengthened by the widening of its horizon beyond the needs of the day and by anticipating from now the needs of the future. In this respect Spain needs but take example from the belligerent countries, which, in the midst of the contest, investigate and speculate as to the best means for trade expansion in the markets of the world. This opinion is strengthened by a consideration of what is referred to as the characteristic and privileged position of Spain with regard to commerce in the future, since the character of its international transactions will allow it to maintain in the economic domain the same neutrality as it has maintained in the political sphere. Indeed, Spain being an exporter of minerals and foodstuffs, which are necessary to countries that have hitherto acquired them, and at the same time an importer of manufactured articles which are offered under severe competition, the country can take an impartial attitude enabling it to come to an agreement with all parties, intent solely on increasing the wealth of the country. On the other hand, Spain stands in the same need of importing some raw materials for its industries, and wishes to place on the world markets some of the products of its great industries.

The royal order directs the commission to deal in its memorandum with the following matters, among others:

Subjects on Which Commission Is to Report.

(1) The state of the foreign trade of Spain in 1913 and 1914, including information regarding the countries with which such trade was maintained; the articles it consisted of; the competition encountered; and the reason why Spanish manufacturers found it impossible to retain markets.

(2) The disturbance of or modifications in the world market occasioned by the war, including particulars in regard to nations that have suspended their exports; nations that have maintained their export trade, and to what extent and under what conditions; markets lost and won by Spain; Spanish industries that have increased their productive capacity by entering such markets; and inquiry as to the permanent or transitory character of new exports from Spain, as well as the strengthening of former branches of the export trade.

(3) Analysis of the economic consequences of the war, including the possibility of economic wars being instituted, and of the formation of two great irreconcilable groups, or the necessity in which these latter may find themselves of living together economically with no greater separation than that of certain differential tariffs among allies, or the forced submission of both parties to the economic laws of reciprocity and exchange; the consequences to Spain of one

[Indian (Government) Trade Journal, Oct. 19.]

This forecast is based upon reports received from six Provinces, which contain practically the whole area under indigo in British India.

The total area sown is estimated at 617,100 acres, which is approximately the same as the revised estimate at the corresponding date of last year. As compared with the final estimate of last year (756,400 acres) the present estimate shows a decrease of 18 per cent.

The total yield of dye is now roughly estimated at 70,000 hundred-weight [hundredweight=112 pounds], as against 75,000 hundred-weight estimated at this time last year, or a decrease of 6.5 per cent. As compared with the final estimate of last year (95,000 hundred-weight) the present estimate shows a decrease of 26 per cent.

Weather conditions at sowing time were favorable, and an extended area was sown with the crop, except in the Madras Deccan, where failure of rains, combined with a fall in prices, curtailed the area to such an extent as to counterbalance the increase in all other Provinces. The crop has been adversely affected by excessive rain and floods in Bihar, the Punjab, and the western districts of the United Provinces. Elsewhere the condition of the crop is reported to be good.

COTTON INDUSTRY OF SOUTH AFRICA.

[Consul John P. Bray, Johannesburg.]

The following notes on the cotton industry of South Africa are taken from a bulletin on this subject recently issued by the Department of Agriculture under the supervision of Mr. W. H. Scherffius, who is an American citizen:

For the past three years the Union of South Africa has produced annually approximately 500,000 pounds of seed cotton; from this was obtained about 170,000 pounds of lint and 330,000 pounds of seed. The lint has been sold at prices ranging from 6 to 8d. (12 to 16 cents) a pound. There has been a demand for seed only for reseedling purposes until quite recently. A Pretoria firm has been crushing the seed and selling seed meal; this new enterprise is making some headway.

South Africa has large stretches of country where both soil and climatic conditions are favorable to the production of cotton. The most progress has so far been made in the middle or bushveld of the Rustenburg district. In the middle or bushveld some of the American varieties, such as Cleveland, Bancroft Pullnot, Russell's, and Bohemian, give the best results. In the low veld, where the soil is very fertile, and on portions of the coastal belt, such as Natal and Zululand, Cook's Long Staple, Nyassaland, Allen's and Sunflower have given the best returns. A new variety, Taylor's Long Silk Staple, is being bred at the Rustenburg station; this variety has a beautiful long, silky staple, a scant foliage, and upright trees, which are all points in its favor, but whether it is going to be superior to some of the old-established varieties we are not yet ready to state.

The average yield of mealies (Indian corn) per acre in South Africa is about four bags; placing the value at 10s. (\$2.43) per bag will give a total profit of £2 (\$9.73), or a net profit of about £1 (\$4.87) per acre. A cotton crop of only 600 pounds of seed cotton would give 200 pounds of lint; placing an average value of 6d. per pound on it will give a gross profit of £5 (\$24.33) per acre, and a net profit of approximately £2 10s. (\$12.17), and there are still 400 pounds of seed left, which, if ground, make an excellent stock food. If a larger yield

POTENTIAL MARKET FOR SPRING SCALES IN GREECE.

[Consul General Alexander W. Weddell, Athens, Oct. 31.]

A large amount of daily household marketing in Greece is done in the streets of the cities. Donkeys laden with fruit, vegetables, and other commodities in huge baskets are driven from house to house and goods are weighed out in small quantities with antiquated steelyards. Even in the better-class markets and butchers' shops this primitive method of weighing prevails. For these and other reasons it is thought that there exists an excellent potential market for cheap scales of the type familiar in the United States, operated by a spring and showing on a graduated scale the weight suspended below. It would not be necessary, it is thought, to have a pan or other receptacle attached, as a hook at the end of the spring could engage the chains or cords fastened to the receptacles now in use.

It is essential that the scales be graduated in okes and drams, inasmuch as the oke is the unit of weight in the country. One oke equals 2.8215 pounds avoirdupois and is divided into 400 drams. Such scales to be popular must not be expensive. There are forwarded herewith a list of hardware dealers with whom correspondence to be understood should be in modern Greek, and a list of commission merchants who understand English. [These lists may be procured from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district and cooperative offices by referring to file No. 95246.]

MINERAL PRODUCTION IN SOUTH AFRICA FOR AUGUST.

[Consul John P. Bray, Johannesburg, Oct. 24.]

The value of all the minerals produced in the Union of South Africa for the month of August amounted to \$17,569,277. The gold production was 757,202 fine ounces, valued at \$15,652,557, of which the Transvaal alone accounted for 757,146 fine ounces, worth \$15,651,404. The Union also produced 944,757 tons of coal, worth at the pit's mouth \$1,435,019, of which the Transvaal contributed 618,314 tons, worth \$717,342, and the Orange Free State 76,833 tons, valued at \$96,259. The copper production of the Union amounted to 593 tons, valued at \$142,720. The Transvaal's copper fields are limited in extent and development, and the other Provinces of the Union produced almost the entire output. Out of 225 tons of tin produced, and valued at \$168,702, the Transvaal supplied 223 tons, worth \$167,904. Other minerals were produced in the Union having a value of \$170,279, to which the Transvaal contributed \$139,868.

Profits and Working Costs.

The profit earned by the Transvaal gold mines in August fell to \$4,287,387. With the exception of that for February, the return is the lowest for this year, and compared with August, 1916, it is a reduction in profits amounting to \$574,247. However, the Rand companies show a profit of \$34,084,966 for the eight months of the present year.

During the past year working costs have advanced on the Transvaal gold mines from 18s. (\$1.38) to 19s. 2 d. (\$4.66), of which 6d. (\$0.12) per ton has been neutralized by higher recovery. It is noticeable, however, that the tonnage handled is 126,000 lower than

it was a year ago. In August 111,930, equal to 26s. 9d. (\$6.51 \$4,182,839, representing 7s. 6d. gate was severely affected by the Germiston district, but fortunately the Eastern Rand was more than made up. The district shows profits totaling \$1,000,000 of the whole Rand. However, the tonnage of the 51 mines. Eighty 10s. (\$2.43) per ton, while at least of gold, the \$828,522 produced passed by only the west and central Output in Southern Rhodesia.

The total mineral production amounted to \$1,789,076. Of the fine ounces, worth \$1,432,499, ounces, worth \$10,886. There were sales amounting to \$58,500. The 341 tons, was valued at \$184,65 were worth \$24,333, and the \$ The value of the output of iron to \$1,927, and diamonds to \$1,8

INCREASE IN JAPAN

[Extract from Japan Chronicle, forwarded from Yokohama]

It is reported that the Nippon plate increasing the subscribed capital to 100,000,000 yen (\$21,934,000) to 100,000,000 obtained the Government's approval. The capital is said to be the expected shipping after the war.

The Nippon Yusen Kaisha is building freighters, aggregating about 100,000 tons, extending the existing lines and

The scheme for the increase of capital. Besides the construction of the company proposes an extensive passenger services. The latter permanent subsidy from the Government authorities are credited with steamers superior to those made by Norddeutscher Lloyd and the war.

The increase in capital is expected

This year's whitefish collection of the United States Bureau of Fisheries, yielding a total of approximately 100,000 tons, was filled to its capacity at Duluth, and Pennsylvania and

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS—GRAND DIVISIONS AND COUNTRIES.

The total values of merchandise imported from and exported to each of the principal countries during October and the 10 months ended October, 1917, compared with corresponding periods of the preceding year, have just been made public by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce of the Department of Commerce, as follows:

Grand divisions and countries.	Month of October—		10 months ended with October—	
	1917	1916	1917	1916
IMPORTS FROM—				
Grand Divisions—				
Europe.....	\$35,429,875	\$45,089,316	\$476,491,003	\$528,684,962
North America.....	66,261,604	54,135,006	744,611,376	555,067,100
South America.....	40,213,387	30,558,650	512,551,025	348,105,074
Asia.....	67,705,422	43,391,150	634,612,222	437,286,584
Oceania.....	9,386,250	3,997,886	72,407,851	84,110,029
Africa.....	2,222,567	1,484,652	61,607,361	56,173,249
Total.....	221,239,405	178,658,730	2,504,033,908	2,009,833,986
Principal countries—				
Austria-Hungary.....	456	33,626	64,937	577,434
Belgium.....		70,371	158,022	941,986
France.....	5,512,571	8,646,007	82,541,348	91,902,217
Germany.....	1,470	85,417	158,901	5,255,970
Italy.....	2,142,491	3,881,167	31,104,745	51,247,214
Netherlands.....	2,986,143	3,640,500	20,482,188	37,321,980
Norway.....	97,573	651,533	5,673,617	5,030,317
Russia in Europe.....	3,222,474	27,785	8,470,308	4,306,738
Spain.....	1,664,667	2,248,709	30,841,661	25,701,447
Sweden.....	884,946	1,700,661	17,487,951	11,978,357
Switzerland.....	1,526,137	1,935,367	16,173,364	18,741,265
United Kingdom.....	15,211,750	20,151,525	247,684,619	257,770,280
Canada.....	39,242,612	25,005,782	328,319,677	186,639,247
Mexico.....	10,933,674	7,919,757	104,308,374	83,615,505
Cuba.....	11,862,416	16,608,357	217,820,241	218,193,417
Argentina.....	8,882,367	6,401,069	152,164,700	96,682,904
Brazil.....	11,522,044	10,786,844	128,154,016	101,550,569
Chile.....	13,214,712	8,086,522	118,876,741	71,213,032
China.....	8,740,597	5,841,010	110,404,767	68,468,217
British East Indies.....	19,948,618	15,086,775	211,080,350	174,801,268
Japan.....	27,727,313	17,485,340	208,967,141	148,714,575
Australia and New Zealand.....	1,507,022	1,049,693	21,126,012	52,991,346
Philippine Islands.....	7,667,569	2,738,161	47,668,056	28,381,576
Egypt.....	15,410	41,382	27,340,003	25,783,866
Grand divisions:—				
Europe.....	358,991,160	350,352,134	3,421,091,452	3,410,010,396
North America.....	101,295,684	88,940,662	1,025,549,742	737,463,494
South America.....	32,218,558	21,481,627	246,408,704	174,740,526
Asia.....	33,036,878	19,411,121	330,604,173	287,364,051
Oceania.....	11,499,469	8,246,382	86,026,287	88,063,427
Africa.....	4,050,261	4,391,992	41,008,727	40,508,179
Total.....	543,232,000	492,813,918	5,160,589,065	4,443,239,967
Principal countries:—				
Austria-Hungary.....				61,771
Belgium.....	552,584	1,839,871	17,811,141	22,188,186
Denmark.....	97,146	6,032,022	32,244,910	47,435,260
France.....	74,490,977	81,930,546	804,905,456	710,391,672
Germany.....			3,275	1,118,263
Greece.....	662,604	3,909,427	7,446,852	29,863,366
Italy.....	52,481,254	30,068,179	324,157,862	229,971,947
Netherlands.....	7,087,056	9,963,456	72,514,765	90,964,111
Norway.....	588,640	6,858,267	59,925,069	53,787,735
Russia in Europe.....	26,514,063	18,362,998	293,722,937	249,077,434
Spain.....	10,030,400	6,435,611	72,822,406	46,163,694
Sweden.....		7,611,976	20,727,483	39,268,646
United Kingdom.....	182,777,218	173,957,774	1,872,682,563	1,556,631,181
Canada.....	64,004,377	54,274,941	693,225,308	481,377,807
Central America.....	5,825,593	4,612,073	43,496,904	37,065,118
Mexico.....	7,886,618	8,861,698	82,624,930	45,964,168

EXPORTS TO—continued.**Principal countries—Continued.**

Cuba.....	\$18.
Argentina.....	13.
Brazil.....	8.
Chile.....	7.
China.....	2.
British East Indies.....	4.
Japan.....	17.
Russia in Asia.....	5.
Australia and New Zealand.....	8.
Philippine Islands.....	2.
British Africa.....	3.

NEW LATE RECORD FOR S

A new record has been made in the Pribilof Islands, Alaska, by the U. S. Fish Commission. In previous years it has been common for the ice Sea closed about the middle of November. This year has been able to deliver a cargo of seal meat in one month. Earlier in the season the vessel had delivered supplies and reached the Pribilof Islands charging practically all of the local boats with tons of coal for the islands. The U. S. Department of Commerce indicated that the sealers at the islands on December 1 and 2 delivered and other materials taken.

The vessel will return with a full cargo of seal meat, and all the fur-seal skins taken during the season when it was reported that the load was about to leave.

The Baker Lake (Wash.) station of the U. S. Fisheries was very successful this year. The men at the station produced 4 tons of salmon, 1 ton of rutabagas, 100 head of cattle. The mess was supplied with many other articles during the season. The time thus spent was fish-cultural work.

OFFICES OF THE BUREAU OF FISHERIES**DISTRICT OFFICES.**

NEW YORK: 784 Customhouse.

BOSTON: 1801 Customhouse.

CHICAGO: 504 Federal Building.

ST. LOUIS: 402 Third National Bank Building.

NEW ORLEANS: 1020 Hibernia Bank Building.

SAN FRANCISCO: 807 Customhouse.

SEATTLE: 648 Henry Building.

NOVEMBER.

Articles.	United States Canal.		Canadian Canal.		Total.	
	1916	1917	1916	1917	1916	1917
EASTBOUND.						
Copper.....short tons..	21,281	17,331	1,101	21,281	18,432	
Grain.....bushels..	8,320,376	5,088,853	6,920,445	2,079,188	15,240,821	7,148,021
Flour.....barrels..	1,162,791	741,170	430,580	562,240	1,563,371	1,293,410
Iron ore.....short tons..	5,218,677	6,254,214	676,168	966,844	5,894,845	7,214,058
Pig iron.....do.....		2,400				2,400
Lumber.....M feet..	36,938	32,276	52		36,990	32,276
Wheat.....bushels..	19,138,892	23,822,470	9,361,400	14,170,443	28,520,292	37,992,913
General merchandise, short tons.....	37,546	23,156	1,152	10,792	38,698	33,948
Passengers.....number..	27	12	337	135	364	147
WESTBOUND.						
Coal:						
Hard.....short tons..	181,170	308,410	6,900	23,400	188,070	332,210
Soft.....do.....	957,044	1,762,170	64,016	123,416	1,021,060	1,885,586
Flour.....barrels..	60				60	
Grain.....bushels..	2,550	2,300			2,550	2,300
Manufactured iron, short tons..	21,830	1,673	4,722	62	26,552	1,735
Iron ore.....do.....		1,000		5,789		6,789
Salt.....barrels..	12,710	40,667	8,400	32,900	21,110	73,567
General merchandise, short tons.....	104,568	111,940	44,845	51,589	149,413	163,529
Passengers.....number..	6	12	56	83	62	95
TOTAL.						
Freight:						
Eastbound.....short tons..	6,225,714	7,257,101	1,137,370	1,496,742	7,363,084	8,753,843
Westbound.....do.....	1,266,568	2,191,329	121,683	209,356	1,388,251	2,400,665
Total.....	7,492,282	9,448,430	1,259,053	1,706,078	8,751,335	11,154,508
Vessel passengers.....number..	1,920	2,190	627	582	2,547	2,772
Registered tonnage.....net..	5,934,765	6,914,550	990,145	1,309,125	6,924,910	8,223,675

EIGHT MONTHS ENDING NOVEMBER.

EASTBOUND.						
Copper.....short tons..	118,914	107,603	3,882	8,624	122,796	116,227
Grain.....bushels..	41,841,611	43,399,418	41,578,648	17,007,301	83,420,259	60,406,719
Flour.....barrels..	6,568,459	4,341,621	3,227,051	3,227,638	9,795,510	7,569,239
Iron ore.....short tons..	50,866,922	49,060,165	11,316,851	11,051,509	62,183,773	60,121,674
Pig iron.....do.....	35,032	10,624			35,032	10,624
Lumber.....M feet..	327,428	339,780	12,135	8,558	339,563	348,338
Wheat.....bushels..	121,393,021	106,766,272	82,307,988	60,708,991	203,701,009	167,475,263
General merchandise, short tons.....	265,579	192,628	54,112	58,422	319,691	251,060
Passengers.....number..	12,062	6,336	15,947	12,522	28,009	18,858
WESTBOUND.						
Coal:						
Hard.....short tons..	1,989,191	2,337,708	87,710	172,750	2,076,901	2,510,458
Soft.....do.....	12,617,528	14,152,882	891,427	1,088,087	13,508,955	15,240,969
Flour.....barrels..	421	80	12,960	10	13,381	90
Grain.....bushels..	9,245	8,185			9,245	8,185
Manufactured iron, short tons..	140,115	78,313	20,163	12,745	160,278	91,063
Iron ore.....do.....	14,479	46,866	14,448	18,563	28,927	63,429
Salt.....barrels..	650,040	452,727	54,187	117,229	704,227	569,956
General merchandise, short tons.....	949,243	916,320	332,430	290,626	1,281,673	1,206,946
Passengers.....number..	11,241	5,661	15,529	13,800	29,770	19,451
TOTAL.						
Freight:						
Eastbound.....	56,999,001	54,436,991	14,963,371	13,617,112	71,962,372	68,054,106
Westbound.....	15,808,257	17,600,188	1,355,215	1,599,519	17,163,472	19,199,657
Total.....	72,807,258	72,037,129	16,318,586	15,216,631	89,125,844	87,253,763
Vessel passages.....number..	18,181	17,076	6,464	5,229	24,645	22,803
Registered tonnage.....net..	55,566,125	52,048,547	12,455,989	11,675,929	68,022,114	63,724,473

Oil shale exists in many parts of the world but has been profitably worked only in Scotland, where it is found in practically unlimited quantities. The Scottish shale industry is located chiefly in a belt of territory about 6 miles broad which stretches from Dalmeny and Abercorn on the southern shore of the Firth of Forth southward across a tract of land between the Almond River and the Bathgate Hills, as far as Tarbrax in the County of Lanark. Throughout this region there are various important mining centers, such as Broxburn, Uphall, East Calder, Mid Calder, West Calder, and Addiewell, with large populations which are mainly, if not wholly, dependent on this branch of production for their support.

Changes During Period of Development.

The rapid development of this industry within the last 40 years is strikingly exemplified by the fact that when this section was first mapped by the Geological Survey in 1857 not one of the existing oil-shale fields was being worked.

Originally there were many small companies, which were interested mainly in the manufacture of burning oil. As the American competition became keener, the smaller manufacturers tended to decrease in number and the larger ones to increase in size, thus concentrating and cheapening production. Retorts were improved to suit the circumstances, and to yield a purer oil, with a large production of heavy products. Mechanical labor-saving arrangements were devised, refining was improved and cheapened, and economies of every kind were introduced. The chemicals used in refining were recovered, and the tars separated by them, the removal of which had involved expense, now are a source of profit as fuel. It is possible, therefore, for the Scotch producers to compete with foreign producers on a profitable basis.

Physical Characteristics of Oil Shale.

The Scotch oil-bearing shale is a fine black or brownish clay shale with certain special features which enable it to be easily distinguished in the field. Among Scottish miners it is termed "shale," and the stratified rock described by geologists as "carbonaceous shale" is distinguished as "blaes," from the bluish color which it often assumes, especially when decomposed into clay.

These two types are readily recognized, but bituminous blaes may graduate into regular oil shale in such a way that it is impossible sometimes to draw a dividing line between them. Bituminous blaes, if fairly rich in ammonia and volatile hydrocarbons, may pass for shale if a practical test proves it to be workable for oil and ammonia on a profitable scale. As a general rule, good oil shale can be distinguished by its brown streak, toughness and resistance to disintegration by the weather. Ordinary dark blaes is far heavier, brittle, and often gritty, and when exposed to the air cracks and crumbles into fragments which ultimately revert to their original condition of clay or mud. Oil shale, on the other hand, resembles hard dark wood or dry leather, and its quality in the field is measured by the degree of facility with which it can be cut and curled up with the edge of a sharp knife. It is free from grittiness, and is often flexible as well as tough.

FOREIGN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the Bureau and its district and cooperative offices. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and state opportunity number. The Bureau does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases. Symbols: * Reported by American consular officers; † Reported by commercial attachés and commercial agents; ‡ Direct inquiries received by the Bureau.

In considering the following "opportunities" special regard should be had to the laws and regulations governing export licenses and trading with the enemy.

Boots and shoes.....	26041	Leather goods.....	26040
Canning factory equipment.....	26039	Machinery.....	26043
Clothing.....	26040	Oils.....	26044
Cotton and woolen goods.....	26042	Paraffin.....	26044
Dried fruits.....	26044	Piece goods.....	26040
Electrical apparatus and supplies.....	26038	Provisions.....	26044
Hardware.....	26040	Resin.....	26044
Hosiery.....	26040	Sanitary fittings.....	26038
Iron bars.....	26038	Tools.....	26038
Lard.....	26044	Underwear.....	26040, 26042

26038.*—A firm in Italy desires to purchase insulated and cotton-coated electric wire of 200 volts tension, porcelain and brass articles for electric installations, such as interrupters, insulators, etc.; tubes for electric conduits; electric lamps of 50, 125, 150, and 200 volts; voltmeters and amperometers; electric bells and wire for same; telephone apparatus and fixtures; sanitary fittings, such as bathtubs, washstands, etc.; taps in brass and nicked iron; lead tubes for water and gas; leaded sheets; round and square iron bars; electroliners; and tools for electric installations, such as snippers, pliers, etc. Payment will be made against shipping documents through an Italian bank. Correspondence should be in French or Italian. References.

26039.†—A man in Peru desires to purchase tin and glass containers for preserved fruits, vegetables, etc., together with kettles and other sterilizing apparatus and equipment for a small canning plant. Quotations should be made f. o. b. port of shipment. Correspondence may be in English. References.

26040.*—A man in South Africa wishes to represent American manufacturers and exporters, especially manufacturers of hardware, leather goods, hosiery, underwear, piece goods, and ready-made clothing. Correspondence may be in English. References.

26041.*—A merchant in Italy is in the market for boots and shoes for men and women. The laced shoes for men must be in black vici kid leather, single soled, or in calfskin, single or double soled; the low shoes to be in black vici kid leather, single soled with double uppers and broad heel; the shoes for women either with strings or buttons, must have the uppers in black vici kid leather and the shoe itself polished or varnished. Boots and shoes with prominence at the top of the toe are not desired, new shapes only must be offered. Quotations may be made f. o. b. New York. Payment will be made by opening credit at an Italian bank when giving the order, available against shipping documents. Correspondence should be in French or Italian. References.

26042.*—An agency, on a commission basis, is desired by a firm in India for the sale of cotton and woolen goods, underwear, etc. Quotations should be made f. o. b. port of shipment. Payment will be made by cash against documents. Correspondence may be in English. Reference.

26043.*—A man in Senegal wishes to buy a machine for pressing the oil out of peanuts, the machine to be propelled by a steam engine and having a capacity of 1½ to 2 tons of oil every 10 hours. Quotations should be made c. i. f. New York. Cash will be paid. Correspondence may be in English, but French is preferred.

26044.*—An agency is desired by an importer in Switzerland for the sale of all kinds of industrial and edible oils, colonial products, dried fruits, paraffin, resin, lard, and provisions. Quotations should be made f. o. b. New York or other American port. Payment will be made by cash in New York by confirmed credit, against documents. Goods must be consigned to a branch of a Swiss import trust company in New York. Correspondence may be in English. References.



No. 291 Washington, D. C.

C C

Names removed from enemy-trading
list
British to control oil-seed supplies.....
British Government denies fixing dis-
crimatory freight rates.....
Proposed tariff discrimination in Mex-
ico.....
British restrictions on Christmas par-
cels.....
Urgent needs of the Department of
Commerce.....
Organization of Japan-China Ex-
change bank.....
Cotton in southern Italy and Italian
colonies.....
Second estimate of India's 1917-18
cotton crop.....

NAMES REMOVED I

The War Trade Board an-
nounced recently received, that the
Enemy Trading List by error
had been removed from the Enemy

D. G. W. A.
La Razon, I

[The Enemy Trading List
for Dec. 5.]

BRITISH TO CON

[Cablegram from Ar

Food Ministry orders all food
seeds, nuts, and kernels placed
on hand November 1st, 1918
date. Also takes possession
of castor seed, copra, cotton seed,
oil, illipe, kapok seed, linseed, and
poppy seed, rapeseed, shea nuts
and imported thereafter; do
tons. All hardened fats manu-
factured at disposal of Food Controlle

BRITISH GOVERNMENT FRE

The British Government has
announced that British shippers
are unfair advantage taking
ing to a statement to-day by
of the British War Mission

tain American quarters that officially established British freight rates were discriminatory and were injuring American trade with foreign countries.

In explanation Sir Thomas said that the only ocean freight rates established by his Government were those applying to certain articles classed as vitally important to the prosecution of the war. On such articles a flat rate is enforced which just covers the cost of shipping. Rates on all other articles, and on cargoes between intermediate points, are fixed by an organization of ship companies, not by the Government. The British Government, he said, not only has had no part in establishing discriminatory freight rates, but as a matter of fact discountenances any such discrimination.

PROPOSED TARIFF DISCRIMINATION IN MEXICO.

In a message submitted to the Mexican Congress on December 5, 1917, and reported in the New York Times of December 11, President Carranza has requested that he be authorized to establish differential rates of duty and regulations in the treatment of the foreign commerce of Mexico with other countries. The object of the proposed discrimination is to favor the commerce with countries that do not place any restrictions on commercial intercourse with Mexico. The message accompanying the proposed law points out that nearly all of the treaties to which Mexico is a party contain provisions for most-favored-nation treatment and that the treaties with the nations at war have not been abrogated or denounced, but it is claimed that the application of this clause is in suspense so far as concerns relations with the belligerent countries. Under the circumstances it is regarded as inequitable that Mexico should be under obligations to maintain its commerce under the same conditions as in times of peace while the belligerents adopt restrictions detrimental to the commerce of the Republic.

Authorization has already been conferred on the President of Mexico to modify the import or export tariffs without first submitting the proposed changes to the national congress (see **COMMERCE REPORTS** of Aug. 14 and Nov. 19, 1917), but at present he is able to make only modifications of uniform application. The proposed law is intended to supplement the power conferred by this previous law.

BRITISH RESTRICTIONS ON CHRISTMAS PARCELS.

The Weekly Bulletin of the Canadian Department of Trade and Commerce of December 3, 1917, states that in response to a cable inquiry as to whether Christmas parcels containing foodstuffs or other articles, such as shoes, wearing apparel, etc., the importation of which is prohibited, would be admitted in the United Kingdom, a reply was received to the effect that such parcels would not be admitted when addressed to civilians. Parcels for members of the Canadian expeditionary force will be admitted only when strictly conforming to the permitted weight and size.

Il Sole of Milan, in its issue of September 28, 1917, contains an article on the cultivation of cotton in southern Italy, and in the Italian colonies. The following is a résumé of its statement:

We have been told that an important society has been virtually formed for the cultivation of dry cotton in southern Italy and Sicily. It is not a question of experiment, but of putting under culture vast tracts of land, and this will soon be begun. Serious steps have been taken also for the renewal of cotton growing in Eritrea and at Benadir. We must congratulate ourselves on this, seeing that they are now discussing in England and France the dedication of new capital to the greater and more rapid development of cotton growing in the English and French colonies.

Industry on Solid Commercial Basis.

A recent report of the British Cotton Growing Association shows how, even with modest capital and modest aid from the Government "a marvelous industry which already has assured prosperity to several English colonies, and may assure still greater, has been created on solid commercial bases." Precisely in view of the results already obtained, the English Government would wish to suspend or reduce the subventions to the enterprises of the British Cotton Growers' Association, but the organization insists on having them, if not increased, at least maintained in the usual measure for the more rapid development of its program for the cultivation of cotton, in order to consolidate the development of a production of vital importance for the English cotton industry and for the whole British Empire.

Statistics show that the consumption of cotton in the United States is increasing in an alarming way. It is evident that on account of the continually greater absorption of raw material on the part of American manufacturers, the percentage of raw cotton reserved for the European market will be gradually reduced. The prospect from now on is that there will be a smaller amount of raw material and higher prices.

The statement of these conditions is sufficient to show how provident are Italian initiatives for the renewal of cotton growing at home and in the colonies.

SECOND ESTIMATE OF INDIA'S 1917-18 COTTON CROP.

[Indian (Government) Trade Journal, Oct. 19.]

This forecast is based on reports furnished by Provinces that comprise the entire cotton crop of India. It relates generally to sowings up to October 1.

The total area so far reported this year amounts to 21,191,000 acres, which is 17 per cent larger than the estimate at this date last year. The increase, which is due to the high prices obtained last year and to favorable conditions at sowing time, is most noticeable in the Punjab (46 per cent), Rajputana (42 per cent), Ajmer-Merwara (34 per cent), Mysore (33 per cent), Bombay (29 per cent), Central India (16 per cent), the United Provinces (13 per cent), Madras (10 per cent), Hyderabad and the Northwest Frontier Province (8 per cent each), and the Central Provinces and Berar (6 per cent). Sind alone shows a decrease of 15 per cent.

The crop has been adversely affected by excessive rain in many parts of northern, western, and central India, particularly in Gujarat (Bombay), the United Provinces, Ajmer-Merwara, Hyderabad, and in many of the Central India and Rajputana States. Elsewhere the present condition and prospects of the crop are reported to be generally good.

The practical assistance given by the United States Bureau of Standards to the authorities of Allegany County, Md., has resulted in improved coal-weighing methods in the State's mining region—a matter of vital importance to this branch of production. Mine track scales were examined by representatives of the bureau at the request of the State's attorney for that county, and it was found that in nearly every case encountered the correct weight of the coal that had been mined was not recorded because of errors which were present in the weighing equipment and methods. Court action followed these discoveries, and it is now stated that competent experts have been employed by the companies affected to put all their scales into first-class condition, with the accompanying promise that they will be maintained in such a state that the old errors will not be repeated.

Suspicious Entertained by Miners.

The proceedings, now concluded, have created better conditions in the industry in Allegany County, for it was reported that before an investigation by the Bureau of Standards was sought, suspicions were entertained by the miners that the weighing of the coal, upon which their wages depended, was incorrect. Strikes were imminent, and would certainly have occurred unless the facts regarding the scales were determined, and it was realized that it was especially necessary at this time that the production of coal should not be hampered by the closing down of the mines.

Six scales in as many mines were examined by the representatives of the Bureau of Standards, and some other inquiries of importance and interest in connection with weighing conditions were conducted. While such scales are tested at the factories before shipment, and are there adjusted to weigh correctly, it is absolutely necessary that they should be properly maintained after they have been installed. The investigation revealed the fact that this had not been done. In the case of nearly all of the scales that received attention the foundations were not rigid enough for the loads they were required to support. It was apparent that very little attention had been given to the mechanism since they were installed, in some instances 15 or more years ago. In all which were examined the knife-edges and bearings, parts of the very greatest importance, were found to be badly rusted and worn; in some every knife-edge and point bearing was worn practically flat. As a result, the multiplication of many of the leverage systems had changed, and the accuracy and sensitiveness of the scales had been lost.

The errors found in the scales were extremely serious ones. Thus in one case a scale used to weigh loads of less than 2 tons was out of balance by 616 pounds, and one of the counterpoise weights was in error by 111 pounds on a nominal weight of 1,120 pounds, both errors being in favor of the company. In another case two counterpoise weights were found which had been plugged with lead in such a way that errors of 103 pounds and 41 pounds were introduced, the total error on the scale being 166 pounds, this discrepancy also resulting in short weight. Also other errors resulted from faulty methods such as the incorrect determination of tare weights of cars.

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ITALY.

[Consul North Winship, Milan, Oct. 6.]

The use of woodworking machinery in Lombardy (consular district of Milan) is extensive. In fact the woodworking industries are well developed, the most important being furniture, doors, blinds, carriages, automobiles, other vehicles, frames, moldings, fixtures, and planing-mill products. These machines are almost exclusively supplied by other countries. Only one plant in Italy turns out woodworking machinery. It is in Mondovì, Piedmont, and supplies only 5 per cent of the total trade. Before the war, 70 per cent was supplied by Germany, while the other machines sold were French, American, and Italian.

The fact that only a few American machines were sold in normal times is explained by the keen competition of the German manufacturers, and their favorable prices and terms. One concern offered terms on the basis of installment rates up to three or four years.

The present demand for woodworking machinery for the private trade is limited, as several factories are closed. On the other hand, important sales are made to the Government. Offers to the Italian Government, it is understood, are to be addressed to its representatives in America.

Handled by Representatives in Milan.

The user of woodworking machinery rarely orders the machine direct from the manufacturer, especially when he is not thoroughly acquainted with it. The business is handled by representatives in Milan. American machines are usually sold here through general agents in London and Paris. Before the war only machines for making wheels and blinds were sold. The dealers here state that the best method of increasing the sales of American machines is by appointment of general Italian agents in Milan.

Both native and imported lumber is used in Lombardy. The wood grown in Italy is oak, elm, chestnut, olive, ash, beech, cherry, maple, poplar, fir, pine, larch, and linden, while the varieties imported are mahogany, which is received from Cuba, Porto Rico, and Honduras; cedar, from Brazil; ebony, sycamore, etc., from Africa; and poplar, pitch pine, fir, and oak from the United States and Canada.

The duty on woodworking machinery weighing over 300 kilos is 9 lire gold per quintal. When prices are quoted, they should be accompanied by actual freight rates to Genoa. Catalogues should be printed in Italian.

[A list of the dealers in woodworking machinery in Milan may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 94399.]

MADAGASCAR.

[Consul James G. Carter, Tananarive.]

Most of the lumber used in Madagascar is grown on the island. Pine for ceilings, flooring, etc., is imported to some extent, usually from Norway. The quantity of timber and lumber imported in 1916 was 837 tons, valued at \$32,373, against 1,027 tons, valued at \$39,622, in 1915. The woods used locally are mostly hardwoods; the soft tim-

Woodworking machinery is used here by the few sawmills, manufacturers of vehicles, principally pousse-pousses (jinrickshas) and carts, and by the cabinet and furniture makers. Such machinery is also used in connection with the construction and repair of the Government railway cars, and repair of its automobiles; and by the Messageries Francaises de Madagascar, a small private railway concern, in connection with the construction and repair of freight cars. The addresses of the heads of these two concerns are: (a) Monsieur le Directeur des Travaux Publics, Tananarive, Madagascar; and (b) Monsieur le Directeur des Messageries Francaises de Madagascar, Tamatave, Madagascar.

There are no organized industries engaged in the manufacture of automobiles, boats and ships, fixtures, refrigerators and kitchen cabinets, sash, or doors and blinds.

[Lists of hardware dealers, sawmills and woodworking establishments, and cabinet and furniture makers in Madagascar may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 94328.]

NETHERLANDS.

[Consul Frank W. Mahin, Amsterdam.]

The lumber used in the Amsterdam district is very largely imported. It consists principally of Cuban mahogany; oak from Russia, the United States, England, and Germany; Italian and American walnut; palisander, chiefly American; teak from the Dutch East Indies; cottonwood from the United States; and various kinds of pine from the United States, Sweden, and Russia.

Much of the sawmill and woodworking machinery used here has been imported from England, Sweden, and Germany, though the war has somewhat changed conditions. In saws the preference is evidently for circular and for solid-tooth. The band-saw machinery that is on sale here is of two general classes—upright and horizontal. Gang saws are used to some extent. Many other varieties of woodworking machinery are in use.

Excellent Trade Possibilities at Present.

The present possibilities of a market in Holland are excellent, as the European countries will not be in a condition to furnish supplies for some years in the future. Machinery sales are usually made through general agents, who buy and sell on their own account, without commission. They have the agency for the whole country, usually including the colonies. Some German agencies also have had the Netherlands in their territory, and generally whatever American woodworking machinery is used has come through them. The usual credit is three months, by note, with security when deemed necessary. Generally 2½ per cent discount is allowed for cash.

Dutch is the preferable language for correspondence and advertising matter, but they may be in English. There is no duty on advertising matter. Machinery for manufacturing purposes is also free of duty. As a rule, the quickest and best steamship route from the United States is via the Holland-America Line.

[A list of importers and users of woodworking machinery in the Amsterdam, Netherlands, district may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 93316.]

very great skill in their work. In order to train these people in the use of modern labor-saving devices, and in the value of time as an economic factor in industry, many schools have been started by the Government and by missionary bodies. Artisan pupils, however, did not give the time necessary for proper instruction, and parents withdrew their children very frequently in the middle of their studies to help them at home, and this was before they had derived any real benefit from the classes.

The ordinary Hindu does not require and does not possess much in the way of furniture, his wants being met by a cheap wooden bedstead, a chair, a table, chest of drawers, an easy chair, one or two benches for visitors, a stool, a cash box, and a wooden box in which he keeps costly clothes and vessels, although a sofa is sometimes used by those who are inclined to luxury.

Articles of good workmanship and taste were manufactured in Madras 20 years ago by Deschamps & Co., but the works have since been closed and their place was taken by innumerable small shops which manufactured furniture of inferior workmanship and of little artistic merit. Latterly, however, larger firms have taken up the industry, and there are now 4 joinery concerns in Madras worked by power, together with 17 others in the district worked either by power or hand. In addition to Indian manufactures a large quantity of furniture is imported, and in 1913-14 this amounted to 2½ lakhs of rupees (\$72,998).

Recent Obstacles to Trade.

American manufacturers would find the great obstacles at present to be the high prices, including cost of transportation; and insurance, and uncertainty of deliveries.

Advertising matter and correspondence should be in the English language. There is no duty on advertising matter sent through the mails. The revised list of tariff valuations dated December 16, 1916, in the Indian tariff act, has the following with regard to machinery:

77. Machinery (and component parts thereof), meaning machines, parts of machines or sets of machines to be worked by electric, steam, water, fire, or other power not being manual or animal labor, or which, before being brought into use, require to be fixed with reference to other moving parts, and including belting of all materials for driving machinery, 2½ per cent ad valorem.

78. Machinery and component parts thereof, meaning machines or parts of machines to be worked by manual or animal labor, 7½ per cent ad valorem.

[A list of sawmills and timber works in Southern India, colliery agents, automobile repair shops, car construction and repair shops, carriage builders, and producers of refrigerators and kitchen cabinets may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 93209.]

MEXICO.

[Consul William W. Canada, Vera Cruz.]

Much of the lumber used in the Vera Cruz district in former times came from the table-land of Mexico. The product of the State of Vera Cruz was unsuitable because it was too hard or too small for ordinary construction work. The wood is now coming from the United States, and as a rule is of the soft varieties of the Southern States.

The natural market for purchasing machinery, especially since the outbreak of the European war, has been the United States. The Vera Cruz consular district, however, has no large manufacturing industries which require machinery made primarily for woodworking.

The table below covers returns from 18 of the 21 sugar centrals in the Province of Camaguey, Cuba, and shows the output for the crop year 1916-17 and estimated output for the ensuing year. The figures were furnished by Sr. Oliverio Cuesta Bages, a sugar statistician and broker of Nuevitas, and represent bags of 325 pounds.

Name of estate.	Owner or lessee.	Location.	Crop.	
			1916-17	1917-18 ^a
			<i>Bags.</i>	<i>Bags.</i>
Adelaida.....	Cia. Az. Adelaida.....	Moron.....	(b)	(b)
Agramonte.....	Cia. Az. Vertientes.....	Florida.....	64,809	200,000
Algodones.....	Central Algodones.....	Guayacanes.....	48,134	137,000
Baragua.....	Baragua Sugar Co.....	Baragua.....	106,229	200,000
Camaguey.....	Cia. Az. Cent. Camaguey.....	Piedrecitas.....	73,784	120,000
Céspedes.....	Peres y Gonzalez.....	Céspedes.....	32,904	100,000
Ciego de Avila.....	Cia. Az. Cent. Ciego de Avila.....	Ciego de Avila.....	140,815	(b)
Cunagua.....	S. A. Cent. Cunagua.....	Moron.....	(b)	120,000
Ella.....	Ella Sugar Co.....	Sta. Lucia.....	65,405	140,000
Jacuyal.....	Cuba Cane Sugar Co.....	Jacuyal.....	251,013	325,000
Jatibonico.....	Cuba Co.....	Jatibonico.....	155,000	225,000
Florida.....	Florida Sugar Co.....	Florida.....	81,577	110,000
Francisco.....	Francisco Sugar Co.....	Sta. Cruz.....	196,070	330,000
Lugareño.....	Cuba Cane Sugar Co.....	Lugareño.....	67,000	303,000
Moron.....	do.....	Moron.....	181,035	357,000
Patria.....	Cia. Az. Cent. Patria.....	do.....	40,000	130,000
Punta Alegre.....	P. A. Sugar Co.....	Pta. San Juan.....	51,303	200,000
Redencion.....	Cent. Redencion.....	Redencion.....	(d)	(d)
Senado.....	The Senado Sugar Co.....	Senado.....	63,537	200,000
Stewart.....	Cuba Cane Sugar Co.....	Stewart.....	375,983	580,000
Sto. Tomas.....	Cia. Az. Cent. Sto. Tomas.....	Moron.....	(b)	(b)
Total.....			2,000,301	3,620,000

^a Estimated.

^b No data.

^c New.

^d Cane sold to Lugareño estate.

Outlook for New Season.

From the information I have been able to obtain as to the condition of the cane fields throughout the Province and the probable capacity of the mills it seems that the estimates given for the coming season are rather high; but it is the general opinion that if there is no interruption in grinding at any of the mills, and if cane fires are not in excess of what may normally be expected, the total output should be somewhat in excess of 3,500,000 sacks, or about 625,000 tons. In the year 1915-16, during which 14 mills operated in Camaguey without interruption, the total output was 2,344,000 sacks of sugar and 18,052,121 gallons of waste molasses.

It is estimated that approximately 2,000,000 sacks of the sugar produced in this Province will be exported through the port of Nuevitas in the coming year. It is, however, somewhat doubtful if the warehouse facilities at this port will be sufficient to handle that amount of sugar. This will depend largely on the shipping available and the rapidity of movement of the sugar out of the port.

Experiments have been made recently by the United States Bureau of Fisheries in the transplanting of commercial species of fresh-water mussels into certain waters of the eastern slope of the Appalachians, in the hope that they might become successfully established and a new fishery resource added to the streams of that region. The degree of success attained will not be known for several years.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the Bureau and its district and cooperative offices. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and state opportunity number. The Bureau does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases. Symbols: * Reported by American consular officers; † Reported by commercial attachés and commercial agents; ‡ Direct inquiries received by the Bureau.

In considering the following "opportunities" special regard should be had to the laws and regulations governing export licenses and trading with the enemy.

Automobiles.....	26046	Iron and brass pipe and fittings.....	26045
Buttons.....	26050	Laces and embroideries.....	26053
Desk supplies.....	26050	Machinery.....	26051
Drugs and acids.....	26050, 26053	Piece goods.....	26053
Electric lighting supplies.....	26054	Presses, wattle bark.....	26049
Flour.....	26053	Soap.....	26053
Glassware.....	26050	Staves.....	26048
Hardware novelties.....	26047, 26052	Thread.....	26053
Hosiery.....	26050, 26053	Timber.....	26048
Household goods.....	26047, 26052	Underwear.....	26053

26045.‡—The naval commission of a foreign Government stationed in the United States will receive proposals until December 31, 1917, for furnishing about 2,800 pounds of galvanized wrought-iron fittings, 1,700 pounds of wrought-iron piping, 1,900 pounds of brass piping, and 3,500 pounds of brass fittings. Specifications and full information may be had on application at the office of the commission.

26046.†—An agency is desired by an Italian firm in Peru for the sale of good, high-grade passenger automobiles. Correspondence may be in English. References.

26047.‡—An American firm in Japan, which has recently established an office in the United States, desires to secure agencies for the sale of novelties and specialties in hardware, household goods, and similar practical lines. It will also undertake the distribution of the product of manufacturers who are not represented in the Far East. Payment will be made by cash against documents in New York.

26048.*—A company in Portugal is in the market for oak staves and timber for building purposes, such as spruce and pitch pine. Quotations should be made f. o. b. New York. Credit will be opened in New York for payment. Correspondence may be in English. References.

26049.†—An export firm in the United States desires to receive illustrations and quotations of special presses for pressing wattle bark for economy in freight space, this information being desired by a South African client.

26050.†—An agency is desired by a man in Peru for the sale of hosiery, buttons, drugs, glassware, and desk supplies. Quotations should be made f. o. b. port of shipment. Correspondence may be in English. References.

26051.‡—A man from Cuba, who is at present in the United States, desires to receive complete information relative to machinery for extracting oil from castor beans.

26052.*—A firm in India wishes to secure an agency on a commission basis for the sale of hardware in general, including household utensils. Quotations should be made f. o. b. port of shipment. Payment will be made by cash against documents. Correspondence may be in English. Reference.

26053.‡—A business man in British Guiana desires to be placed in communication with American manufacturers and exporters of cheap cotton prints, white cotton, thread, laces and embroideries, khaki drills, light tweeds and serges, cotton and lisle hosiery, underwear, acids, cheap laundry soaps, and wheat flour in 196-pound bags. Business is desired on a commission basis. Quotations and full information should be submitted. References.

26054.*—A man in France wishes to purchase electrical supplies for the lighting of automobiles and trams. Quotations should be made f. o. b. New York. Payment will be made against documents. Correspondence should be in French. Reference.



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COAL TRADE OF HULL

[Consul Homer M. Byington, E

According to the official returns of quantity of coal received from the collieries in 1917, was 260,358 tons, as compared with 1916, an increase of 32,000 tons. For the 10 months ending October 31, 1917, the total was 2,432,090 tons, against 2,821,389,473 tons. The average monthly arrivals were 243,209 tons, against 282,156 tons in 1916. The quantities exported to foreign countries by steamshipments and bunkers have steadily decreased during the year.

MODIFICATION OF WORKING HOURS

[Commercial Attaché C. W. A. V

Considerable comment in the press is being made in connection with the proposed modification of a Lyon plant manufacturing machinery. The agreement with its employees, what is the result of the day; that is to say, work will begin at 5.50 p. m., with a pause of half an hour. Under this system, the introduction of which in the Lyon industries, will immediately effect a saving in light and fuel.

In connection with the recent agitation in the clothing industries, for the introduction of a system which makes Saturday afternoon a holiday, to the prevailing French practice of closing at noon. Le Journal, in its issue of September 15, says so long as this practice continues it will not change generally the "English week" without a corresponding reduction in output.

Safer conditions for the development of commerce have been provided by systematic methods of improvement in the Lighthouse Service, and by the use of modern apparatus in increasing the number and brilliancy of aids to navigation on the coasts under the jurisdiction of the United States. The nature of the improvements and the extent to which lights have been increased in brilliancy and numbers are indicated in the annual report of the Commissioner of Lighthouses to the Secretary of Commerce for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1917.

This service maintains aids to navigation on all coasts under the jurisdiction of the Government, except the Philippine Islands and Panama, and also on the principal interior rivers. It is charged with the maintenance of such aids along 47,192 statute miles of coast line and river channel. On June 30, 1917, there were 5,796 persons employed in the service, including 122 technical force, 149 clerical force, and 5,525 employees connected with depots, lighthouses, and vessels.

During the fiscal year there was a net increase of 275 in the total number of aids maintained, the total at the end of the year being 15,223. Of these, 5,420 are lights of all classes, and 588 are fog signals. The total number of aids in Alaska, comprising lights, fog signals, buoys, and daymarks in commission at the close of the fiscal year was 416, including 159 lighted aids.

Improvements in aids to navigation have been made during the year as follows: Flashing or occulting lights were installed in place of fixed lights at 39 stations; incandescent oil-vapor lights were substituted for oil-wick lamps at 17 stations, including 1 light vessel; acetylene or oil-gas lights were substituted for oil lights at 26 stations, including 4 light vessels. A new lighthouse, with fog signal, was established at Cape St. Elias, Kayak Island, Alaska. In accordance with the established custom of the Service, effort has been continued to consult the needs of maritime interests and to cooperate effectively with other branches of the Government in related work. Under the President's order of April 11, 1917, several vessels and stations, with their personnel, were turned over to the War and Navy Departments.

Vessels Completed and Placed in Service.

During the fiscal year 50 tenders and 68 light vessels were in commission. The new tenders *Palmetto* and *Cedar* were completed and immediately placed on duty. Two new light vessels were completed—*No. 101* off Cape Charles, entrance to Chesapeake Bay, Va., and *No. 102* at Southwest Pass, entrance to Mississippi River. *Light vessel No. 99* for relief duty on the Great Lakes is under construction.

Several new works under special appropriations were completed during the year, as follows: Carpenter shop at Tompkinsville depot, N. Y.; new depot, Charleston, S. C.; and Manistique lights and fog signal, Michigan. Other construction work was in progress at the close of the fiscal year, the most important item being the new lighthouse for Navassa Island, West Indies. Good progress was made, and the light at Navassa went into commission in October, 1917.

During the fiscal year 1917 services in saving life and property were rendered and acts of heroism performed by employees of the

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The official return of imports and exports of the Straits Settlements for the first six months of 1917 indicates a considerable trade increase over the corresponding period of the preceding year. The figures for the first half year of 1917, with the comparative figures for the same period of the three preceding years, are given below :

Countries.	January-June—			
	1914	1915	1916	1917
IMPORTS.				
Singapore.....	\$87,250,848	\$87,859,076	\$116,757,305	\$137,376,744
Penang.....	37,292,536	28,166,828	35,675,186	39,504,022
Malacca.....	2,888,397	3,174,976	5,276,933	6,876,526
Total.....	127,431,781	119,200,880	157,709,424	183,757,292
EXPORTS.				
Singapore.....	67,310,972	79,959,712	107,692,013	134,920,762
Penang.....	32,732,521	27,285,932	34,843,850	42,309,682
Malacca.....	4,682,392	5,938,194	10,345,972	13,366,988
Total.....	104,725,885	113,183,838	152,881,835	190,630,406

From this table it will be noted that the increase in the value of imports for 1917 over 1916 is not so great as the 1916-1915 increase. However, in making this comparison the fact that the European war seriously affected the 1915 imports must be taken into consideration. The imports and exports for the first six months of 1917, as well as 1916, show a noteworthy gain over those for the corresponding period of 1913, the year preceding the war.

Singapore, the principal port of the Straits Settlements, is credited with the greater part of the increase. The import figures for Penang are approximately the same for the years 1917, 1916, and 1914, while 1915 shows a considerable decrease, due to war conditions. The Malacca imports have steadily increased during the past four years. All of the ports mentioned in the table show good gains in exports.

Principal Imports.

The following table gives the principal articles of import for the first six months of 1917 compared with the similar period of 1916:

Articles.	Jan.-June, 1916.	Jan.-June, 1917.	Articles.	Jan.-June, 1916.	Jan.-June, 1917.
Chemicals.....	\$690,191	\$884,210	Nails, iron.....	\$249,708	\$212,621
Cigars and cigarettes.....	2,441,110	3,048,953	Paper.....	697,028	614,498
Cotton piece goods, plain, dyed, and printed.....	4,740,596	5,870,039	Pepper.....	2,630,270	3,763,028
Cycles, parts, and accessories.....	180,363	216,546	Petroleum.....	1,413,540	829,467
Hardware and cutlery, excluding cooking utensils.....	300,619	310,178	Rubber.....	30,570,169	37,214,386
Liquid fuel.....	870,440	202,353	Sugar.....	4,017,571	5,855,967
Liquors, spirituous.....	1,159,865	893,042	Stationery.....	215,514	230,434
Motor cars, motorcycles, parts and accessories.....	538,193	1,117,811	Tools, instruments, and implements.....	168,607	236,106

American automobile manufacturers, who since the war have been supplying most of the motor cars in use in the Malay Peninsula, will no doubt be interested in the large increase in the importation of

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Bordeaux's Second Sample Fair was held from September 1 to 16, 1917, and, following the plan of the preceding one, it took the form of an exhibition for the promotion of interest in the French colonial possessions and their products, supplemented with displays representing the different industries of Southwestern France. In representation of both home and foreign industries the Second Sample Fair did not come up to the expectations of its promoters—the war being, undoubtedly, the chief factor responsible for this. The second fair was unfortunate, furthermore, in not receiving as liberal subsidies as did that of 1916.

But if the fair in general suffered from a lack of interest and support from many of the local commercial houses, it should be noted that that part devoted to the colonies and colonial exhibitors was a decided improvement over the 1916 exhibit and a source of surprise to all visitors. The people from overseas welcomed this opportunity to display their varied products to the French public.

American Participation—Arrangement of Exhibits.

The participation of American industries in this year's exposition by direct representation was not what was expected after the value of the work had been once shown, but this lack of direct representation was in the main due to the entrance of the United States into the war. Among the numerous products of American origin on exhibition might be named automobiles, automobile tires, typewriters, cleaning apparatus for hardwood floors, chemicals (such as sulphate of copper and sulphur), refined and lubricating oils, machine tools, antifriction metals and light hardware, canned goods (such as fruits and meats), and sporting goods. Agricultural machinery, for which there is a steady demand in this district, was lacking, although several American companies are established here.

The fair was again held near the center of the city, in an area facing on the Garonne River and known as the Place des Quinconces. [Announcement of the holding of this fair was made in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for Feb. 23, 1917; the issue for Jan. 18, 1917, contained an account of Bordeaux's First Sample Fair.] Displays were arranged according to groups: (1) Agriculture; (2) colonies; (3) alimentation; (4) chemicals, drugs, and fertilizers; (5) industry in general; (6) construction work; (7) textiles; (8) miscellaneous; (9) printing and publicity; and (10) "tourism and hydrology."

Agricultural Section.

1. *Agriculture*.—By way of introduction it should be stated that the consular district of Bordeaux comprises the larger part of Southwestern France, a region mainly devoted to agriculture. With the increasing scarcity of male labor for farm work and the growing interest in modern equipment, the call for improved machinery and labor-saving devices is increasing. The extensive vineyards offer an unusual opportunity to introduce American-made implements and machinery. Agricultural implements of various kinds were conspicuous in this section of the fair, with particular emphasis on plows, harrows, and cultivators, including styles drawn by oxen, horses, or tractors, which can be employed in the vineyards.

woods, textile materials, tannins, medicinals, aromatics, gums, resins, dye woods, cacao, rum, gold dust, and oleaginous substances.

The protectorate of Tunis had a stand showing some of the results of the French Government's efforts toward improving economic conditions in that territory. Among the products for commercial utilization were olive oil, soaps, wines, lignites, cereals, sponges, corks, alfa fibers, ceramics, wool, skins, and food products such as olives, almonds, nuts, and raisins.

Moroccan Wares—Bordeaux a Transshipping Center.

The display of the protectorate of Morocco was one of the largest and most attractive in the entire fair. The stand was divided into two parts, the first for samples in general of Moroccan products, and the second for wares that might be classed in the field of art. In the former were cereals, wools, silks, skins, and alfa and other grasses adaptable to textile utilization. In the latter section were to be found the famous Berber tapestries from Rabat, pottery from Safi and Fez, embroideries from Longe and Rabat, woods of various kinds, rich cloths, fine laces, artistically wrought copper objects, mats of native grasses, and many styles of native cloth slippers. This North African territory, like the others, is just beginning to come into its own, and exploitation of its commercial possibilities has been hastened by the war's demand for new sources of supply of raw materials.

In 1916 the Ministry of Colonies had only 8 stands at the fair, while this year it had 17 stands and more complete collections of samples. Moroccan products occupied 4, those of Tunis 2, and the other colonies 11 different stands. Guadeloupe had 2 stands comprising the exhibits of 138 business houses. The Colonial Institute of Bordeaux occupied 2 stands devoted to displays of products from nearly every dominion. A business house occupying 2 stands exhibited products from French Guiana. Besides the exhibit of the colonial office, 5 stands were devoted to displays of Tunisian tapestries by private individuals and firms.

American houses desiring to do business with the French colonies, particularly those in Africa, would do well to make connections with Bordeaux traders, as this city serves as the leading point of transshipment for merchandise intended for the African colonies. Several American exporters of cotton goods and machinery are already following this method for introducing their products into North Africa, Senegal, and Madagascar.

Food Products—Chemicals and Drugs.

3. *Food products and alimentation.*—*Solids:* Under this division were displays of farinaceous products, fruits and vegetables, oil, and fish, including conserved and canned goods, with exhibits by two American houses which do a regular business between Bordeaux and American cities. *Liquids:* Naturally, the wines and liquors of this region, one of the largest producers in the world, occupied a conspicuous section of the fair. The Syndicate of Girondin Viticulturists had a combined display of the products of its members and distributed many samples to the visitors. For the solid-food products there were 88 different kinds and for the liquids 54, making a total of 142 kinds.

wealth in this region, and capital have been ment of the Landes, a the coast between the G ests of maritime pines refined for turpentine, industry of the ports in and in the manufacture products of this region the Chamber of Comm that all the fair building

(b) Industrial chemi played in this section. in viticulture and horticulture of lead, sulphur, lime, soil. American-made chemicals local importers. There

Some American Goods in Ind

5. *Industry in general* exhibits of machinery, besides innumerable small things were exhibited, in the hands of French r derricks, builders' hardware (camions) are some of the grounds for examination and reports indicate that

The glassware display producers and exporters of French manufacture. time ago were producing glass containers are no longer in the plants in Bordeaux to meet the needs of the manufacturers might find this

Gas and electrical fixtures electrical machinery also demand for such goods needs of the French market makes. Ordinary electric district, and, with the increase in the Pyrenees Mountains introduction of electrical States. None of American Fair.

Structural Materials, Textiles

6. *Construction work* a to construction work, building a special structure in the Department of the Industries for the ready construction

abundant in that region. A standard type house, such as is being constructed in the devastated regions of northern France, occupied a prominent site on the grounds. No material of American origin was exhibited.

7. *Textiles, cloths, and footwear.*—In this division were samples of the work of the Pyrenees textile industry, with both machines and woolen cloth for inspection. This is an important industry in that region and one to which American machinery manufacturers have supplied equipment. Displays of clothing were confined mainly to samples of dress goods, millinery, children's ready-made clothing, men's hats, and shoes. There were none of American make.

8. *Household articles and novelties.*—This section contained exhibits of jewelry, photographic work, firearms, toys, perfumery, musical instruments, household articles, pottery, etc., numbering 182 varieties, supplied mainly by furnishing houses of Bordeaux and vicinity. Nearly all of the articles were of French manufacture, the toys being the work of soldiers in the schools for the reeducation of the wounded. There were no American articles in this display.

9. *Paper and printing and general publicity.*—(a) This section comprised several exhibits of journals, printing and binding, publications, machines, and the work of wounded soldiers. Among the publications one of particular interest is *L'Exportateur Francais*, a weekly journal published in Paris and devoted to the promotion of the interests of the French export trade and to propaganda in favor of French manufactures. Some American houses are using this journal now as a medium for bringing their products to the attention of French buyers.

The paper-making industry had displays of its products, particular attention being given paper pulp, of which article there is a dearth in France at this time.

The exhibits of the handiwork of wounded soldiers naturally occupied an important position at the fair. They consisted chiefly of basketry and light novelties, but part of the space was turned over to machine-tool operation, shoemaking, harness making, and wood carving, according to the individual capabilities.

In all there were 56 displays in this section.

Publicity Work of Trade Organizations.

(b) Another important division of the publicity work was that of the regional chambers of commerce, as shown in their municipal and syndical exhibits. In this line were the following exhibitors: Chamber of Commerce of the Department of Gers, with 18 participants in one stand; Chamber of Commerce and the city of Cahors, with 11 participants in one stand; Chamber of Commerce of the Department of Landes, with 9 participants in a special stand; Chamber of Commerce of the Department of Lot-et-Garonne, with 9 participants in one stand, representing also the city of Toulouse; Syndicate of Brive et du Bas-Limousin, city and district, with 11 participants in one stand; city of Dax, Landes, with 5 participants in one stand; Government of Serbia, with numerous displays of samples, in one stand. Besides the foregoing there were representatives and displays from: The Committee of the Fair for Wines, with 138 kinds; Syndicate of Wines, with 34 participants in 4 stands; Syndical Union of Grains and Flours of Bordeaux and the region, 25 partici-

participants in 9 stands, special
participants in 25 stands, special

The trade organization is represented in various ways in the particular region and a business with visitors and chambers of commerce of commercial importance within the United States. In such cases it is generally advisable to seek advice and assistance from the desired to operate.

10. *"Tourism and hydrography"* travel agencies, steamship stations, the latter advertising Twenty-two companies in the several railway and Bordeaux, each with a special section to inquirers.

Preparations for Next Year's Fair

The Second Sample Fair of that of last year, which we consider that the continuation of the year certainly affected the promoters of the fair, all results, are none the less a year successfully. They order not to compete with the fair for the exhibition of annual meeting place within the relations between colonial trade in western France.

Preparations are already well advanced and will take place early in September. Greater representation from houses in allied or neutral countries. The committee in charge of the next fair may be secured to Bordeaux, France.

OFFICES OF THE BUREAU

DISTRICT OFFICES.

NEW YORK: 784 Customhouse.

BOSTON: 1801 Customhouse.

CHICAGO: 504 Federal Building.

ST. LOUIS: 402 Third National Bank.

NEW ORLEANS: 1020 Hibernia Bank.

SAN FRANCISCO: 307 Customhouse.

SEATTLE: 848 Henry Building.

Among the Japanese commodities that have come to figure prominently in the export trade of the country since the outbreak of the war, European-style paper is mentioned by the Japan Chronicle as important. This article had no place in a list of the principal exports until the last few years. Even the home demand for it was met largely by imports from Europe. The war, however, has led to a complete change in the situation. Not only have domestic demands been met by home output, but exports have been made in rapidly increasing quantities to the Orient and to other parts of the world where European supplies have been greatly reduced or even completely suspended.

Increased Total Expected This Year.

Exports of European-style paper last year amounted to 12,000,000 yen (\$5,976,000), while this year's exports are expected, the Chronicle states, to total about 18,000,000 yen, making ample allowance for the official restrictions on exports which were instituted a month ago. Up to the end of August, 1917, the year's exports amounted to 12,942,000 yen, equal to the whole of last year. The figures for the eight months are $3\frac{1}{2}$ times as large as those for the corresponding period of 1915, while the increase as compared with last year is 50 per cent. The output of paper in this country next year is expected to increase by 40 or 50 per cent, and it is thought that if the export trade continues to develop at the present rate, it will not be long before European-style paper comes to occupy a leading position on the list of Japan's export commodities.

BRITISH GOVERNMENT PURCHASES EGYPT'S COTTON SEED.

[Consul Arthur Garrels, Alexandria, Egypt, Sept. 6.]

By a proclamation of August 12, 1917, dealings in Egyptian cotton seed of the 1917-18 crop were prohibited, in consequence of the intention of the British Government to purchase that crop. In accordance with this proclamation there were issued on September 3, 1917, the following notices setting forth the conditions under which and the basis of the prices at which the seed will be purchased and restrictions in regard to the movement of seed:

With reference to the proclamation of the general officer commanding in chief His Britannic Majesty's forces in Egypt of August 12, 1917, prohibiting further dealings in cotton seed of the 1917-18 crop in consequence of the intention of His Britannic Majesty's Government to purchase that crop, the public is hereby informed that the following arrangements have been approved by the general officer commanding in chief and will take effect as from the date of the publication of this notice.

A board, to be known as the Cotton Seed Control Board, has been appointed to effect, on behalf of His Britannic Majesty's Government, the purchase, storing, and shipping of the 1917-18 crop of cotton seed. The board is authorized:

(a) To purchase in Alexandria cotton seed of the 1917-18 crop, either directly or by means of such firms or individuals as it may delegate, to act on its behalf, on the basis of the following prices [expressed in American units]: \$0.92 per bushel for Falyuni and Upper Egypt, f. a. q.; \$0.84 per bushel for Afifi, including Assili, Nubari, and Abbassi, f. a. q.; \$0.78 per bushel for Sakel-larkides, f. a. q.

(b) To fix the allowances for qualities above and below the above standards.

(d) To issue licenses to individuals or firms at its discretion and on such

board.
(c) To issue licenses at its
of seed for the requirements of
ing if necessary the purchase
to the board by His Britannic M
(f) In general, to do all such
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The temporary address of the
Alexandria, and all communicat
at the said address.

The arrangements necessary i
in regard to which a separate
the hands of the Egyptian Gover
of the board.

The public is hereby inform
Britannic Majesty's forces in Eg
ing order:

"Until further notice cotton :
signed to Alexandria, (2) If it
issued for sowing purposes (tuq
ture or (b) to cultivators under

FORAGE PLANT SEED

The following table, prepar
of Plant Industry, United S
the amount of the various k
seed-importation act permit
the month of November, 191

Kind of seed.	Novem- ber, 1916.
	<i>Pounds.</i>
Bluegrass: Canada.....	5,600
Clover: Alsiro.....	635,900
Crimson.....	204,700
Red.....	215,000
White.....	1,400
Rape, winter.....	284,700

BANGKOK INTERNAT R

[Vice Consul C

The Bangkok Internatio
of which have been suspend
on September 17, 1917, and
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members. The chamber has
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German firms ceased to be r
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The Franco-Chinese Cha
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Society, the special activiti

The total value of the exports from Aden to the United States during the third quarter of 1917 amounted to only \$85,482, which is one of the lowest totals recorded for any quarter during the past several years.

This amount is made up of civet valued at \$4,367 and skins valued at \$81,115. During the corresponding quarter of last year the total exports from Aden to the United States were valued at \$541,895, and were made up of civet, with a value of \$3,006; coffee, \$34,812; gums, \$1,145; hides, \$3,740; senna leaves, \$1,614; and skins, \$497,578.

The remarkable falling off in exports has been mainly due to the lack of shipping space, although the difficulty in negotiating letters of credit, drafts, and export bills in general has had some effect.

Prospects for the fourth and last quarter of the year are that exports will be even less in value, unless more shipping space should unexpectedly be made available.

May Result in More Direct Shipments.

One probable result of the shipping condition at Aden will be direct shipments to the United States from Red Sea ports which normally send their American shipments through Aden. It is known that one Aden firm is about to make a shipment of nearly a half million skins from Massowah to the United States on a through bill of lading, but with transshipment at an Italian port. This shipment is expected to go from Massowah on a steamer of the Maritima Italiana Line. The steamers of this line have a fortnightly Italy-India and Italy-East Africa service, and call at Red Sea ports each way. Owing to the restrictions governing shipments on British steamers from Aden to foreign countries, with transshipment in England, a large share of Aden exports to America during the past year has gone by these Italian steamers on a through bill of lading with transshipment in Italy. Massowah, as an Italian port, is naturally allotted more space on these steamers than is Aden, and the Aden firm herein referred to has probably been able to get space from Massowah, where it has a branch, which it could not get from Aden.

For similar reasons it is possible that some Abyssinian products that normally come to Aden for shipment will be exported to America on French steamers from Djibouti, provided arrangements can be made for through bills of lading, with transshipment in France.

American importers normally take a larger share of Aden exports than those of any other nationality and the inability to make the usual shipments to the United States is having a depressing effect upon the local export business. The only saving feature in the situation is the fact that the majority of Aden exporters have enjoyed large and unusual profits for most of the period since the war began and are, therefore, in an excellent position to go through one or two lean years without serious inconvenience.

reserved addresses may be obtained from the Bureau and its district and cooperative offices. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and state opportunity number. The Bureau does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases. Symbols: * Reported by American consular officers; † Reported by commercial attachés and commercial agents; ‡ Direct inquiries received by the Bureau.

In considering the following "opportunities" special regard should be had to the laws and regulations governing export licenses and trading with the enemy.

Automobiles and accessories.....	26057	Imitation leather.....	26056
Calcium carbide.....	26061	Machinery.....	26055
Canned goods.....	26064	Notions.....	26063
Cement.....	26064	Office supplies.....	26060
Clothing.....	26063	Piece goods.....	26062
Cotton.....	26059	Provisions.....	26064
Cotton goods.....	26064	Stationery.....	26060
Fishing nets and ropes.....	26058	Tin plates.....	26058
Flour.....	26064	Wood, veneer.....	26065

26055.*—A man in Madagascar desires to purchase two complete plants for treating arrowroot, one for flour and one for starch. Full description and specifications should be submitted, drawings included. A plant with an output of 30 tons per day is desired. Correspondence should be in French. References.

26056.*—An agency on a commission basis is desired by a firm in India for the sale of imitation leather. Quotations should be made f. o. b. port of shipment. Payment will be made by cash against documents. Correspondence may be in English. Reference.

26057.*—A man in France desires to secure an agency for the sale of automobiles and accessories. Quotations should be made f. o. b. New York. Correspondence should be in French. Reference.

26058.*—A company in Portugal desires to purchase fishing nets, steel wire fishing ropes with hemp core, and tinned iron plates for canning fish. Quotations should be made f. o. b. American port. Payment will be made by cash or credit terms. Goods should be well packed, especially the nets and fishing ropes. Correspondence may be in English. References.

26059.*—A firm in Portugal wishes to buy cotton. Quotations should be made f. o. b. New York. Credit will be opened in New York for payment. Correspondence may be in English. References.

26060.*—A firm in India desires to secure an agency on a commission basis for the sale of stationery and office supplies. Quotations should be made f. o. b. port of shipment. Payment will be made by cash against documents. Correspondence may be in English. Reference.

26061.*—A man in Algeria is in the market for 10 tons of calcium carbide. One fourth cash will be paid with order and balance against presentation of documents at destination. The goods should be packed in casks weighing between 50 and 70 kilos. Correspondence should be in French. Reference. Prices should be quoted in francs, if possible.

26062.*—An agency is desired by a firm in India for the sale of cotton and woolen piece goods. All business is desired on a commission basis. Quotations should be made f. o. b. port of shipment. Payment will be made by cash against documents. Correspondence may be in English. Reference.

26063.*—A firm in Portugal wishes to buy all kinds of clothing and accessories, such as buttons, braid, thread, ribbons, hosiery, underwear, etc. It also desires to entertain an agency proposition. Quotations should be made f. o. b. American port. Correspondence should be in Portuguese or French. References.

26064.*—An agency is desired by a firm in the Canary Islands for the sale of cotton goods, cement, flour, canned meats, bacon, lard, sausages, etc. Quotations may be made f. o. b. New York. Payment will be made by cash. Correspondence may be in English. Reference.

26065.†—A man in France wishes to be placed in communication with American manufacturers and exporters of strong, light woods and woods for veneering. Reference.



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IMPORT

In carrying into effect the November 28, 1917, the War Trade Acts have been made with various and industrial organizations in certain of the commodities which, require an import license. The various in certain of the controlled commodities that their full requirements may be met, the uses of any material eliminated, the War Trade Board, which supervises the importation of the imported commodity and products.

Prior to the date of the Presidential Proclamation, materials were permitted by foreign country only if consigned to the War Trade Board, or some other designated agent, or the importer only upon his giving bond that they will not be reexported, except under license, and will not be used in trading directly or indirectly, nor be hoarded for speculative purposes. Under the present, the control formerly exercised over these commodities on reaching the United States Government committees. These committees have no power in the granting or refusal of licenses, but on their own initiative to determine whether these commodities, or determinations are to gather such information.

time direct, to act as consignees of the various commodities as directed; to release these commodities to the importers under instructions from the War Trade Board, and prior to such release, to obtain from the importers such guarantees or other agreements as the War Trade Board may require; to keep themselves informed for the benefit of the board as to the use and disposition of the imported commodities, and the observance by the importers of any guarantees or agreements given in connection therewith, and to keep full and complete records of all importations of the various commodities.

The following is a list of such trade organizations and the commodities in connection with the importation of which they will exercise the functions above outlined.

The Rubber Association of America, Inc.—Rubber, raw or reclaimed waste or scrap; balata, gutta joolatong; gutta percha; gutta siak.

American Iron and Steel Institute.—Tin; chloride of tin; tin ore.

The Textile Alliance, Inc.—Wool and animal hair; wooled and haired skins; jute and hurlap, including bags; cotton; flax; mica.

The United States Shellac Importers Association, Inc.—Shellac.

Tanners Council of the United States of America.—Leather; hides and skins; tanning materials.

American Diamond Committee, Inc.—Rough diamonds.

Plumbago-Graphite Association.—Plumbago.

Oils and Oil Seeds Association of America, Inc.—Palm oil and palm-kernel oil.

It is expected that the trades handling other commodities mentioned in the President's proclamation will shortly be formed for the same purposes.

The Trade Committees which are now offering their services to the Government have already demonstrated that their existing facilities for executing the above work, and their technical knowledge of the requirements of the various trades are well calculated to be of the greatest assistance to the War Trade Board in administering the control of imported commodities. They represent a very large majority of all those interested in their trade. The high degree of patriotism and self-sacrifice shown by their members in their offers to aid, and their spirit of cooperation is of the highest value to the Government in its effort to bring about and maintain the high standard of military and commercial efficiency necessary for the winning of the war.

WITHDRAWAL OF FRENCH EXPORT CONCESSION FOR JUTE FABRIC.

Consul General Thackara reports by cable from Paris that a French ministerial order of December 12 renews the embargo on jute textiles. Since December 10, 1915, there has been a general authorization for the exportation to the United States and allied countries of jute fabrics with the following exceptions: Unbleached armure fabrics (linen warp), weighing more than 30 kilos per 100 square meters, and jute sacks. (Kilo, 2.2 pounds; square meter, 1.196 square yards.) This concession is now withdrawn and exports to the countries named may be made only by special license obtained from the French authorities for individual shipments.

The War Trade Board announced that the regulations will apply as of December 15, 1917, to all foreign sources.

1. Applicants for import licenses will be subject to the following provisions:

A. The applicant agrees that he will not sell the wool of the person other than a manufacturer with whom he has contracted and that in the event of a sale to a third person he will exact from his purchaser the same consent.

B. The United States Government reserves the option to purchase at the price and on the terms of any part of the wool covered by Application No. —, or any other wool of the same class, at any time unsold until the whole amount of the wool shall be equivalent to 5 per cent of the wool of 1917, for similar wool, as established by the Wool Trade Association, the actual price to be appointed jointly by the United States Government.

2. These regulations shall not apply to wool imported prior to December 15, 1917.

Applicants for import license application copies of all their wool, as of December 15, 1917, for the importation of which all wool contracted for States port of entry December 15, 1917, amount of wool already shipped and shipped thereunder.

The War Trade Board in fixing the regulations as of December 15, 1917, has given them any retroactive effect which would be necessary and earnestly appeals to wool growers and woolen products to conduct their business on the stock of wool now on hand and to avoid further speculation, hoarding, and price fixing.

It is hoped that the effect of the regulations will remove the conditions of the situation and remove the conditions of the abnormal and illogical situation.

The price of wool has advanced greatly in excess of supply. The price in England is fixed by the Government. The price in the United States is above the prewar level. It is hoped that the price of woolen products thereof has increased in the United States, but the demand is as great. Those countries of governmental control, and the situation which the absence of governmental control in the course of commerce is distributed. Governmental control in other countries as regards the future.

stocks of wool, and to contract with dealers or importers for unusual quantities for far forward delivery. Manufacturers of clothing have also been infected by a like dread, inciting the purchase of cloth exceeding in volume their reasonable needs. Such processes have brought about an artificial demand, far in excess of actual consumption, the inevitable effect of which has created a factitious price condition. This has happened at a time when the wool supply in the country is known to be ample for present needs, and for a sufficient period in advance to remove any reasonable apprehension as to the ultimate available supply.

Statistical data collected by the Government, corroborated by independent investigations of the wool industry, clearly indicates that no wool shortage exists, either in the world's supply or in the amount on hand in the United States, notwithstanding the increased consumption for military purposes. The clip in most countries has steadily increased since the outbreak of the war, because sheep raisers, stimulated by the higher returns for wool, have permitted the flocks to increase, and it may be reasonably expected that this increased production will continue.

The consumption of wool during the year 1918 will be little if any greater than it was during the year 1917, for the reason that textile manufacturers have been producing well up to the limit of their reasonable capacity; and further, because of the increased use of substitutes for wool in manufacturing processes.

The Commercial Economy Board has begun to exert its influence in applying the principle of conservation to the consumption of wool, and will continue to induce the curtailment of its use for less essential products; that is to say, the consumption of wool will be directed into needful and withheld from unnecessary channels. This action as a matter of course will tend to diminish the consumption and further to maintain the present safe margin of supply.

The War Trade Board has invited and confidently awaits the cooperation of the wool dealers and the cloth and clothing manufacturers of the country in causing the abandonment of the practice of far-forward purchasing and the unnecessary accumulation of stocks, which practice a mistaken estimate of the wool supply of the country and of the world has incited them to follow. Such hoarding is evidently dangerous because of the resultant price inflation. The continuance of this practice will threaten the holders of abnormal stocks or those who are committed for far-forward deliveries with a severe loss when the inevitable period of readjustment in commodity values is at hand.

It is hoped that the action of the War Trade Board in providing that the Government of the United States may take advantage of the option contained in all import licenses issued on and after December 15, 1917, to purchase importations of wool at a price 5 per cent below that of the Boston market as of July 30 last, will stabilize the market; encourage the importations of wool to continue in the accustomed manner, check the price movement toward the breaking point, and permit of an orderly recession toward a less dangerous level. The bringing about of these conditions through the cooperation of the trade at large with the War Trade Board will enable the various

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EXPORTATION OF

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2. Persons desiring to
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3. The applicant shoul
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Exports, 1435 K Street N

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[Vice Consul at A. Road, Dundee, Oct. 21.]
The use of tractors in Scotland for farming purposes has increased remarkably during the past two years, and the present demand is far in excess of the supply. The very high prices and costly upkeep of farm horses, added to the heavier expenses for labor, have compelled the larger farmers to be on the lookout for the best type of utility tractor.

The necessary points seem to be: Sufficient power with a reserve; strength and simplicity of construction; ability to run on common paraffin with economical consumption; capable of being operated by one man; toughness and durability of parts; easy adjustment; and ability to pull harrows, rollers, cultivators, etc., over broken ground.

A local farmers' association has stated that it would be difficult for any other class of farmers than those cultivating more than 160 acres to make use economically of tractors, unless the smaller farmers can combine to use one tractor among several of them.

Satisfactory Hiring System Expected.

There is no doubt that tractors have come to stay, and it is only a question of a short time until a hiring system will be found which will work conveniently and economically in much the same way as in thrashing. Several American tractors already are on the Scottish market, in limited numbers on account of import restrictions, but experience has given the Scottish farmer great confidence in any American make of farm machinery, and doubtless there will be a great demand for American tractors after the war.

[Previous articles on the use of farm tractors in Scotland were published in **COMMERCE REPORTS** for Sept. 4, 1917, and Oct. 17, 1916.]

RICE CROP IN LOMBARDY.

[Consul North Winship, Milan, Italy, Nov. 3.]

Lombardy is the second largest rice-producing department in Italy, being next to Piedmont. The rice-producing area in Lombardy is given at 129,500 acres, against 346,500 acres for Italy. In 1916 the rice crop amounted to 214,700 tons, against 520,300 tons for the whole of Italy, and this year it is given at 200,000 tons, against 512,200 tons in Italy.

[Reference to the Italian decree requisitioning the crops of whole rice and maize was made in **COMMERCE REPORTS** for Oct. 9, 1917.]

MODIFICATION OF AUSTRALIAN PROHIBITION ON JEWELRY.

[British Board of Trade Journal, Nov. 22.]

According to an announcement by the Australian Department of Trade and Customs, collar studs and sleeve links of rolled gold or gilt may be imported into Australia. An exception is thus made to the prohibition of the importation of jewelry and imitation jewelry which was announced on August 10. (See **COMMERCE REPORTS** for Aug. 15 and Oct. 6).

According to the Reports of chemicals, drugs, value of \$12,835,267, as in the month of 1916, and sulphur, coal products, soda compounds, and lime, acetone, muriatic acid, improvement, but in the case of borate of lime, etc., and potash compounds (not classified as painters' colors) recorded.

In the export trade there are no restrictions that have been placed on the value of the exports of chemicals, to \$9,962,212, as compared with 1915. There was an increase in the exports of coal products (not dyestuffs), of ammonia, chromate of soda, caustic soda, and a decrease in distilled glycerine, all other chemicals, and materials, nitrate of soda, soda ash, soda crystals, and tartaric acids, and

TRADE

[Commercial Attaché]

By proclamation dated January 1, 1916, the President appointed a committee to study the commercial and industrial situation in the United States, especially in so far as it affects the export trade. The following is quoted from the report of the committee:

There is herewith appended a list of industries in which the industrial situation is such as to call for special action on the part of the Government such as to encourage the development of the industry, to the purpose of protecting the industry, and to encourage their further development.

DENAT

[Consul General Alfred]

The Minister of Agriculture and the Minister of Finance have decided that the tax on kerosene shall be reduced to 1 cent per gallon, and that the benefit of the reduction shall be given to the industrial purposes of the United States.

While little attempt has been made during the recent years of unsettled conditions in Mexico to keep up other than necessary repairs of buildings in Matamoros and other towns in this vicinity, there is a growing tendency among property owners to improve the appearance of their buildings, with the result that there is a good demand for paint.

Practically all of the better-class buildings are built of locally manufactured brick, which is very porous. As the buildings are all one or two stories high, constructed with a courtyard in the center, and with very large rooms, there is a large surface in front which requires protection. - During the extreme heat of the summer months the reflection of the sun on the bricks raises the temperature to possibly 140° F. Its effect is soon shown on outside paintwork. While oil paint is used to some extent in this class of work, a water-mixed product is more widely employed on account of the difference in cost at time of application.

As a specially prepared paint for exterior brickwork which would withstand the extreme heat of the tropical sun in this section would no doubt be cheaper in the long run, there would seem to be an excellent opportunity for placing such an article on the market at present.

HAIL INSURANCE IN BULGARIA.

[Consul General D. I. Murphy, Sofia, Oct. 29.]

The Bulgarian Central Cooperative Bank, which is charged with the direction of Government insurance against crop damage by hailstorms, has given out the information that in the year 1916 hail insurance policies were issued in 1,471 parishes in Bulgaria. The number of policies issued was 37,100, which was 1,548 more than in the previous year—the total amount of insurance having been 41,842,246 leva (\$8,075,553 at normal exchange)—99,331 leva (\$15,171) more than in 1915.

During 1916 the number of policyholders who suffered damage from hailstorms was 8,400—in 455 parishes only. The losses, which have been closely calculated and fully paid to the sufferers, aggregated 1,600,000 leva (\$308,800).

EXCHANGE RATES IN CEYLON.

[Consul Walter A. Leonard, Colombo, Oct. 17.]

The normal rate of exchange between the English pound sterling and the Ceylon rupee is 15 rupees to the pound sterling. The Government rate has now been fixed by the post office in exchange of money orders at 14.12 rupees to £1, i. e., one rupee is now valued at 1s. 5d., instead of 1s. 4d., as formerly. This exchange will be effective from October 18, 1917. The local bank quotations fluctuate, but approximate the above rate of exchange.

The present exchange on American dollars, quoted on demand drafts by the banks, is 2.92 rupees buying rate and 2.98 rupees selling rate. The normal Government exchange being 3.0823 rupees—the American dollar is at a depreciation as compared with the Ceylon rupee.

The act of Congress relating to neutrality and foreign relations, approved June 15, 1917, contains the following provisions under Title VIII:

SEC. 3. Whoever, other than a diplomatic or consular officer or attaché, shall act in the United States as an agent of a foreign Government without prior notification to the Secretary of State, shall be fined not more than \$5,000, or imprisoned not more than five years, or both.

SEC. 4. The words "foreign Government," as used in this act * * * shall be deemed to include any government, faction, or body of insurgents within a country with which the United States is at peace, which government, faction, or body of insurgents may or may not have been recognized by the United States as a government.

Regulations to Promote Uniformity.

In order to avoid misapprehension and to promote uniformity with respect to notification required to be given to the Secretary of State in accordance with this act by any person within the jurisdiction of the United States (other than a diplomatic or consular officer or attaché) who acts or purposes to act as an agent of a foreign Government within the meaning of this act, it is deemed desirable to issue the following regulations:

(1) The notification should be a formal statement addressed to the Secretary of State. The notification may be made by the agent's Government through diplomatic channels; or, in the case of an insurrectionary government, faction, or body, by the competent authorities thereof through an American consular officer; or the notification may be made by the agent direct, but in that case must be accompanied by a duly authenticated copy of his commission or other form of appointment.

(2) No notification is required in case of a special diplomatic mission coming to the United States on behalf of a foreign power.

Separate Notification for Each Agent.

(3) A separate notification to the Secretary of State should be made in the case of each agent employed in the United States.

(4) The notification should set forth the name, nationality, personal description, and official designation of the agent, whether he be an American citizen or an alien.

(5) The notification should include a complete statement as to the purpose, scope, and nature of the agency, and if possible the period of its duration.

(6) The notification must be renewed whenever the purpose, scope, or nature of the agency is changed, and in any case every 12 months throughout the duration of the agency.

(7) The Secretary of State should be promptly informed of the expiration of the agency.

In Case Government Has No Diplomatic Mission.

(8) In case of a foreign Government having no diplomatic mission in the United States, the notification with respect to the agent of such Government should be made by or be viséed by the diplomatic mission in charge of the protection of the interests of such Government.

(9) These regulations apply to the agents either of a recognized foreign Government or of any government, faction, or body of in-

by the United States as a gov
(10) These regulations may
direction of the Secretary of

LIVE-STOCK FEED PREPA

[Consul Frank W. Mahir

A factory has been started
North Sea Canal, for transn
offal into a satisfactory food
importance—it feeds the swi
example) usually fed to swin
food.

Spoiled fish have been fed t
of the pork. The new facto
(literally, fish meal) from
analysis shows, contains 55 p
and also realizes an oil that, a
in competition with cod-liver
as an industrial oil.

It is suggested that besides
be tried with cattle, as a pos
now exists in regard to feedin

The new factory is consid
circles, and hope is expresse
general public will give it es
concern.

PUBLICATION WORK O

The annual report of the I
ment of Commerce, issued to
of the larger publishing estab
the past fiscal year there we
quarterly, annual, and specia
work of the Secretary's office a
The printing of these reports c

The publications contain a
of 7,295 pages from the prec
them a total of 4,444,200 copi
decrease was due partly to the
tribution of its publications t
real use for them.

The department limits the
tions to a few well-defined p
are encouraged to purchase t
ments, who maintains a supp
resulted not only in a reduct
port shows that the Superint
during the year from the sal

Some marked changes are noticeable in the leather import and export trade of Spain for the first six months of 1917, compared to the first six months of the preceding two years. The imports of tanned and untanned hides and skins of all kinds, including calfskins, Indian goatskins, sheepskins, chamois leather, rabbit and hare skins, amounted during the first half of 1915 to 6,420 tons; in 1916 to 4,184 tons; and in 1917 to 6,758 tons. The export of skins of all kinds, both raw and tanned, amounted during the first six months of 1915 to 3,320 tons, in 1916 to 3,646 tons, and in 1917 to 5,820 tons. Imports of leather shoes increased from 2 tons during the first half of 1915 to 3 tons in 1916 and to 5 tons in 1917, while the exports of leather shoes during the same period fell from 1,476 tons in 1915 to 325 tons in 1916 and 436 tons in 1917. Imports of harness and leather trappings of leather or skin for riding or driving amounted in the first six months of 1915 to less than one-half ton, in 1916 to about 1 ton, and in 1917 to over 1½ tons, while during the corresponding period exports of leather belting and harness amounted in 1915 to 524 tons, in 1916 to 75 tons, and in 1917 to 47 tons.

Countries Participating in the Trade.

According to official statistics for 1915 the countries of origin of Spain's imports of raw and tanned skins of all kinds were Argentina, British possessions in Oceania, Uruguay, and Colombia. The exports of this class of skins from Spain were sent chiefly to United States, France, Italy, and Great Britain. Two-thirds of the leather shoes imported came from the United States, followed by France and Great Britain. Over half the leather shoes exported went to the Philippine Islands, followed by Cuba, Italy, Morocco, and the Canaries. Imports of harness and other trappings came chiefly from France, followed by Cuba and the United States, while nine-tenths of the exports from Spain of this merchandise were shipped to France and the small remainder to Morocco, the Canary Islands, and Cuba.

According to figures taken from the industrial tax returns, there are in Spain, exclusive of the Viscayan and Navarre Provinces, 1,810 plants for the manipulation of leather, where skins are either dressed, tanned, dyed, or cut and made up into articles of sale.

NEW HOTEL FOR LIMA, PERU.

[Commercial Attaché William F. Montavon, Lima, Nov. 19.]

The Congress of Peru by recent legislation has provided for an up-to-date hotel in Lima, to be constructed under the supervision of the National Government of Peru and to cost not less than £200,000 (\$973,000). The site set aside for the hotel is Government property located in the heart of the city and is to be acquired by the company constructing the hotel.

The need of a modern hotel in Lima has been keenly felt by travelers for some time. During recent years the number of commercial travelers and tourists visiting the west coast of South America has more than doubled, and many of these have found it inconvenient or even impossible to remain longer than a few days in Lima because of the lack of adequate hotel accommodations.

In view of the shortage of petrol and the necessity of relieving the traffic on railways, it has become necessary that all privately owned lorries and steam trucks should be utilized to their fullest carrying capacity, and accordingly the transport section of the Ministry of Munitions has arranged a scheme of mechanical transport control to cover the West Riding of Yorkshire, which commenced operation on November 12. A public notice states that the object of the scheme is to provide loads for empty journeys that lorries are at present running and to provide loads for lorries not fully employed within a radius of about 20 miles of loading point.

The charge, which commences from the time the lorry arrives for loading until the lorry is released, ranges from 5s. (\$1.22) per hour to 12s. (\$2.92) per hour for petrol lorries of 10 hundredweight up to 5 tons capacity, 9s. (\$2.19) for rubber-tired steam lorries up to 5 tons capacity, and 6s. (\$1.46) for steel-tired steam lorries of a similar capacity. Trailers will be 3s. (73 cents) per hour extra, and special rates can be arranged for regular journeys on long periods. Charges will be collected by the Ministry of Munitions, who accept responsibility to pay the lorry owners, after deducting 5 per cent from the amount received to cover expenses of administration, and traders within the prescribed radius who require to forward goods should supply full details of their traffic and the points between which it has to be conveyed.

Chambers of commerce and traders' associations in the area have undertaken to give the scheme all possible assistance; and at a recent meeting of the motor-haulage contractors in the West Riding of Yorkshire they decided to accept the scheme, as it was felt that all traffic would soon gravitate into this official channel on account of the cheaper rates. It was also realized that as the supply of petrol is controlled, and in the last resort the Ministry could utilize Army Service Corps wagons, the contractors could, by adopting the scheme, maintain their industry and stand in a better position to obtain supplies of petrol and machine parts.

MARINE INSURANCE SOCIETY INCORPORATED IN GREECE.

[Consul General Alexander W. Weddell, Athens, Nov. 3.]

In the Greek Government Gazette of September 30 (O. S.) appears a royal decree incorporating for 50 years a limited marine insurance company to be known as the Hellenic Marine Insurance Co. (Ltd.). This organization is the only Greek firm in its peculiar field, and is chartered in strict conformity with recent laws forbidding the operation of unlimited-liability companies in Greece except under severe restrictions.

The company will handle all kinds of insurance, but especially marine insurance, which latter branch will be administered under special regulations of the Ministry of National Economy. The head offices are in Athens. The authorized capital stock is 2,000,000 drachmas (\$386,000 at normal exchange), divided into 20,000 shares of 100 drachmas (\$19.30) each. Directors have already taken 10,000 shares, so the company starts with a paid-up capital of \$193,000.

With 58 delegates in the First National Congress the morning of November President, Alberto Henke treasurer, Hipólito Gera chosen honorary president Secretary of Commerce a department, honorary vice

The formal inauguration of November 17. The message of welcome by the expressed the general satisfaction of relations among them with the Administration. The representatives of the practically hold the balance he urged that they first of all of rich and poor by class. The betterment of life by creating a greater development of the national economy frowned upon, as well as on the other hand, the capital nor labor has the service in a manner that good. In such a case the whatever manner appear damage to the general interest

CAMPAIGN FOR U

Satisfactory progress has been made by the representatives of the United States in the markets for smoked salmon. In the State these fish are not sold in packets and in one of the latest efforts extended its work to other countries prepared to meet the demand for stocks of this fish in pickled form as fish are not readily obtained.

The agents of the Bureau have illustrated there the methods of

OFFICES OF THE BUREAU

DISTRICT OFFICES.

NEW YORK: 734 Customhouse.
BOSTON: 1801 Customhouse.
CHICAGO: 504 Federal Building.
ST. LOUIS: 402 Third National Bank.
NEW ORLEANS: 1020 Iberville Bank.
SAN FRANCISCO: 807 Customhouse.
SEATTLE: 848 Henry Building.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the Bureau and its district and cooperative offices. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and state opportunity number. The Bureau does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases. Symbols: * Reported by American consular officers; † Reported by commercial attachés and commercial agents; ‡ Direct inquiries received by the Bureau.

In considering the following "opportunities" special regard should be had to the laws and regulations governing export licenses and trading with the enemy.

Automobiles.....	26066	General agency.....	26071
Canned goods.....	26068, 26069	Hardware.....	26072
Chemicals.....	26072	Machinery.....	26075
Cistern wagons.....	26076	Oils and greases.....	26072, 26073
Coffee.....	26073	Parchment.....	26074
Construction materials.....	26069	Sausage casings.....	26070
Cotton.....	26073	Watches, alarm.....	26071
Food products.....	26069, 26072, 26073	Yarn.....	26067

25066.*—An agency is desired by a company in Portugal for the sale of automobiles. Quotations should be made f. o. b. American port. Payment will be made by cash or credit terms. Correspondence may be in English. References.

26067.†—A chamber of commerce in France wishes to be placed in communication with American manufacturers and exporters of cotton yarn. Full information in regard to prices, freight rates, etc., should be submitted.

26068.*—A firm in India desires to secure an agency on a commission basis for the sale of canned food products of all kinds, such as meats, fish, vegetables, etc. Quotations should be made f. o. b. port of shipment. Payment will be made by cash against documents. Correspondence may be in English. Reference.

26069.*—A man in France wishes to represent American manufacturers and exporters of construction materials, such as cement, structural iron, etc.; and food products, such as flour, grain, and canned goods. All business is desired on a commission basis. Correspondence should be in French. References.

26070.*—A company in Portugal is in the market for sausage casings. Quotations should be made f. o. b. New York. Payment will be made by opening credit in New York. Correspondence may be in English. References.

26071.†—A firm in Brazil wishes to be placed in communication with American manufacturers and exporters, with a view to securing an agency for the sale of their goods. It is at the present time in need of 500 alarm watches of cheap make. Catalogues, prices, and full information should be submitted as soon as possible. Bank credit will be opened in favor of American firm, payment being made for goods by cash against shipping documents in the United States. Correspondence should be in Italian, Portuguese, or Spanish. Reference.

26072.*—A man in France desires to represent American manufacturers and exporters of a general line of goods, such as food products, greases and oils, industrial chemicals, cereals, general light hardware, etc. All business is desired on a commission basis. Correspondence should be in French. References.

26073.*—An agency is desired by a man in Switzerland for the sale of coffee, cotton, lard, edible oils, cacao, dried fruits, and dried vegetables. Correspondence may be in English. References.

26074.*—A firm in Ireland is in the market for pure vegetable parchment for butter packing. Payment will be made C. O. D. Goods should be shipped by quickest route possible. Reference.

26075.†—A man from Venezuela, who is at present in the United States, desires to purchase a boiler in which molasses is brought to a consistency to convert it into sugar, together with all accessories, and one plant of two centrifugals with steam engine, mixer, and other accessories.

26076.*—A man in France desires to secure an agency for the sale of cistern wagons with a capacity of 150 hectoliters each. Quotations should be made f. o. b. New York. Payment will be made against documents. Correspondence should be in French. References.

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ENEMY.

The War Trade Board has authorized the payment of drafts accepted on or before December 14, 1917, drawn on funds to the credit of a person who is an "enemy" or "ally of enemy," or acting for or on behalf of an "enemy" or "ally of enemy," or on which such a person appears as drawer or indorser, when such drafts are presented for payment in the United States: *Provided, however*, That when such drafts are collected for or on behalf of any person who is an "enemy" or "ally of enemy," or person acting for or on behalf of an "enemy" or "ally of enemy," the proceeds of collection shall be at once reported by the person making such collection to and be held subject to the disposition of the Alien Property Custodian.

Attention is called to the fact that no drafts can now be accepted or transferred or dealt in before acceptance which are drawn on funds to the credit of any person who is an "enemy" or "ally of enemy," or acting for or on behalf of an "enemy" or "ally of enemy," or drawn by or to the order of such a person, or on which such person appears as indorser, unless a license is first obtained from the Bureau of Enemy Trade, Bond Building, Washington, D.C.

The War Trade Board has also authorized the payment of travelers' checks, not exceeding \$100 in amount, on which there appears the indorsement of a person who is an "enemy" or "ally of enemy," or acting for or on behalf of an "enemy" or "ally of enemy," without obtaining a license therefor.

CEYLON EMBARGO AND AMERICAN TRADE.

A prohibition by the Government of Ceylon on the exportation of all articles except printed matter to any destination in the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, and Denmark has been reported by Consul Walter A. Leonard, Colombo. This restriction is similar to the prohibition announced by the British Government on September 29, reference to which was made in COMMERCE REPORTS for October 12.

In view of the considerable trade formerly carried on by Denmark and the Netherlands in the purchase of copra from Ceylon, coconut products will be particularly affected, and the consul anticipates increased trade with America on account of restricted markets elsewhere.

SPECIAL MEXICAN STATE TAX ON RURAL PROPERTIES.

[Consul William W. Canada, Vera Cruz, Nov. 26.]

By decree of the governor of the State of Vera Cruz all rural properties with the exception of those devoted to the cultivation of coffee, rice, beans, corn, and tobacco are to pay after January 1, 1918, a special yearly tax of 15 centavos per hectare (3 cents American gold per acre), to be used in the pacification of the State of Vera Cruz and especially for the maintenance of rural guards, it being considered just that those who will profit most by the return of peace should bear their share of the expenses.

[Consul A. A. W

While the Japanese (Japanese ships, they do i nite form, and Japanese uncertain as to what the chartering for foreign voy rising and are becoming i ning on regular lines to J Osaka Shosen Kaisha, a falling steadily, and con in increasing quantities t be lower now than at Dai

Possible American Influence on

If the present conditi Dairen market will be aff off. This is bound to hav try, for it is a continuing at full capacity, whereas their product they will c ready the market is slack it is anticipated that the long as present shipping c

BANKING F

[Consul Ho

On November 10 the N branch in Caracas [see C November 14 announceme Mercantil Americano de C cantile Bank of the Ameri tutions in connection with zuelan banks give banking ness in existence or in p comers coincides with the existed in Venezuela since war.

EXCHANG

[Consul Walter

During September and district purchased the G vian, and Chilean pesos o 46 to 60 cents, and in turn 46½ to 61 cents. At the e for these coins and selling tions at either price, it be below 55 and the selling pri rate.

· The annual report of the Commissioner of Fisheries to the Secretary of Commerce dwells particularly on the efforts of the Bureau to meet the conditions imposed by the world war. The enlarged importance of the Bureau's operations and the success of its efforts were due to the improved equipment of the service in both material facilities and personnel, to liberal financial support from Congress, and to the generous criticism and sympathetic attitude of the public.

The usual laboratory and field investigations have been directed toward the increased production of aquatic supplies, chiefly foods, and toward measures conducing to a reduction in wasteful and destructive practices among fishermen. The fish hatcheries have been run at their fullest capacity, and have yielded an enormous crop of food and game fishes. The work in connection with the commercial fisheries has reached a stage where very large benefits have accrued and the outlook for increased usefulness is most promising.

Exploitation of Neglected Aquatic Resources.

The Bureau has continued its activities in behalf of neglected products, especially those available for food, and has scored further successes in this important field.

The history of the tilefish campaign is well known. Up to the end of the fiscal year 1916, when the fishery was only 8 months old, there had been caught and sold over 4,388,000 pounds of tilefish for which the fishermen received more than \$210,000. By the end of the first 12 months, the catch was upward of 10,250,000 pounds, selling for more than \$400,000. During the fiscal year 1917 the landings aggregated 11,641,500 pounds, and the receipts of the fishermen exceeded \$477,000. The headquarters of the fishery are New York and Boston.

The campaign to make an asset out of a confirmed nuisance—the grayfish—has progressed rapidly and, on the whole, satisfactorily. Difficulties in the way of making this fish available and acceptable as human food have been overcome, and there is now an established industry on both Atlantic and Pacific coasts in canning, salting, and smoking grayfish. Other more or less neglected fishes whose utilization has been advocated and otherwise aided by the Bureau are the sablefish of the northwest coast, burbot of the Great Lakes, and bowfin of the interior waters generally.

The scarcity of mammal hides for use in making leather has brought into prominence the value for this purpose of the skins of sharks and other aquatic creatures. Through the activities of the Bureau in behalf of fishermen and tanners, a market for such skins has been developed, and leather of a very good grade for certain industrial uses is now being made from this hitherto neglected source of supply. The general utilization of sharks for their meat and skins will have the effect of increasing the abundance of other fishes by reducing the numbers of their most destructive enemies.

Propagation of Food Fishes.

The year's work in fish culture was attended with conspicuous success. The output of the hatcheries was larger than in any previous year, and for the first time passed the 5,000,000,000 mark. There were operated 55 regularly established hatcheries, 19 subhatcheries,

and 11 egg collecting stations. The volume of work reduced to a point so far attained, namely, planted, this amount covers expenses of administrative and quantities of fish eggs were missions for hatching and distribution of the hatchery messengers required 138,716 645,721 miles of railroad to gage cars. The fish were Alaska.

Fresh-Water Mussel Propagation

With headquarters at Fairbanks extensive work has been conducted addressed to the pearly mussel industry. In this fashion larval mussels are inoculated and the fishes are then liberated; young mussels drop off the endence on the bottom. But taken from the microscopic larva fishery laboratory at Fairbanks young mussels were inoculated; work is less than 3 cents per

ENCOURAGING PAPAYA

[Consul General George E.]

There is something of a revolution (*Carica papaya*) in the Fairbanks; there has been increased demand; market gardeners have come on a scale, so that papayas are now in the market stalls.

The agricultural department has been studying the cultivation of papaya and has issued a comprehensive report. In the Philippines the matter of the better cultivation of papaya to secure native cooperation in

Papayas do exceptionally well compared with most other fruits, and in Alaska their cultivation is rapidly increasing for food production.

Increased Passenger Traffic

Commercial Attaché Ervin Hansen, Copenhagen, Denmark, under Danish passenger tariffs have been increased since the war began, amounting to 60 per cent for passengers, 60 per cent for freight except food.

A study made by the Research Division of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce of the production, imports, exports, and consumption of coal in certain foreign countries has brought to light the interesting fact that Belgium, small at it is, had the second largest per capita consumption of coal in 1912. Canada was third, New Zealand fourth, Germany fifth, France sixth. The United Kingdom led in this respect, as in all the others named except importation.

In the matter of production Germany was second, followed in order by France, Russia, Belgium, and Japan. In imports (wherein the United Kingdom holds a minor position) France led, Canada was second, Austria-Hungary was third, Germany fourth, Belgium fifth, and Italy sixth. In exports Germany was the nearest competitor of Great Britain, shipping about half as much as that country; Belgium was third, Japan fourth, Australia fifth, France sixth. In the extent of its supplies available for consumption Germany ranked next after the United Kingdom, then came France, Russia, Austria-Hungary, and Belgium.

Comparative Data for 15 Countries.

The Research Division's detailed figures are given below. Save as noted, they relate to the calendar year 1912, that being the latest year for which complete data were available from all the countries considered. Quantities are stated in long tons throughout.

Countries.	Production.	Imports.	Exports.	Available for consumption.	Per capita consumption.
	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>
Australia.....	11,730,000	16,000	3,823,000	7,923,000	1.7
Austria-Hungary:					
Austria.....	15,544,000	13,327,000	1,351,000	26,110,000	0.52
Hungary.....	a 1,290,000				
Belgium.....	22,603,000	9,955,000	7,194,000	25,364,000	1.3
British India.....	14,706,000	b 734,000	b 881,000	14,559,000	0.59
British South Africa:					
Cape of Good Hope.....	67,000	67,000	1,423,000	5,892,000	0.5
Natal.....	2,469,000				
Orange Free State.....	469,000				
Transvaal.....	4,243,000				
Canada.....	12,958,000	c 13,669,000	c 1,876,000	24,781,000	3.3
France.....	d 39,745,000	21,289,000	2,407,000	d 58,624,000	d 1.48
Germany.....	172,066,000	11,347,000	42,671,000	140,741,000	2.12
Italy.....		9,806,000	26,000	9,870,000	0.26
Japan.....	e 17,349,000	343,000	5,757,000	a 12,348,000	a 0.24
New Zealand.....	2,178,000	364,000	230,000	2,312,000	1.25
Russian Empire.....	a 25,998,000	d 6,160,000	d 202,000	a 31,719,000	a 0.19
Spain.....	3,605,000	2,874,000	7,000	a 6,140,000	a 0.31
Sweden.....	d 355,000	5,012,000		d 5,367,000	d 0.96
United Kingdom.....	260,416,000	209,000	85,843,000	174,782,000	3.5

a 1911.

b Year ended Mar. 31. Figures of commerce relate to sea-borne trade only.

c Year ended Mar. 31.

d Preliminary figures.

e The particulars of State mines, which have been included, relate to the year ended Mar. 31, 1913.

The United Kingdom's Chief Customers.

In the year under discussion the United Kingdom exported 64,444,395 tons of coal, 1,010,650 tons of coke, and 1,580,803 tons of "patent fuel" (briquets, etc.), a total of 67,035,848 tons. The discrepancy between this amount and the figure given above is explained by the fact that the fuel shipped for the use of steamers in the for-

cign trade is not included, 1
 fuel converted into their eq
 quantity of fuel shipped fo
 in 1912 was 18,291,370 tons.
 shipments went in 1912 wer

Exported to—

Argentina.....
Brazil.....
Denmark (including Iceland, Greenland, Islands).....
Egypt.....
France.....
Germany.....
Italy.....
Norway.....
Russia.....
Spain.....
Sweden.....
All other countries.....
Total.....

Principal Buyers of German Fuel

A like explanation accoun
 shown in the following state
 and patent fuel in 1912 and t

Exported to—

Austria-Hungary.....
Belgium.....
France.....
Netherlands.....
Russia (except Finland).....
Switzerland.....
All other countries.....
Total.....

Destination of Japanese, Indian,

Japan in 1912 exported 1
 tons to British India, 1,250
 80,000 to the Dutch East I
 Kwongtung Province, 299,00
 the Straits Settlements, 48,0
 other countries. This accou
 of the exports shown in the
 the equivalent in coal of a sn

British India sent 12,000
 543,000 tons to Ceylon, 154,0
 Sumatra, and 42,000 to other

Australia supplied 1,671,00
 besides 2,152,000 tons, whic
 62,000; India, 123,000; Java,
 pine Islands, 105,000; Strai
 104,000; and other countries.

NETHERLANDS.

[Consul General Soren Listoe, Rotterdam, Oct. 26.]

According to official statistics, 4,070 hectares (10,057 acres) were utilized for the raising of seeds in the Netherlands in 1916, of which 1,012 hectares (2,501 acres) were devoted to spihach seed. No statistics as to the area utilized for seeds are available for 1917, but it is presumed that it is practically the same as in 1916.

Although no exact statistics are available giving the production of spinach seed (round) in the Netherlands for 1917, the "Zaad Centrale" (Seed Bureau) at The Hague estimates that it will amount to at least 1,000,000 kilos (2,204,600 pounds), which is considerably in excess of 1916.

Of last year's production 235,194 kilos (518,509 pounds) were exported to the United States, but, as the Dutch Government has since placed an embargo on spinach seed, the prospects for the export of any of the current crop are not very bright. Producers, however, are in hopes of obtaining export licenses later on.

ITALY.

[Consul Joseph Emerson Haven, Turin, Nov. 2.]

The production of spinach seed in Piedmont, Italy (Provinces of Turin, Alessandria, Cuneo, and Novara), is of minor importance from a crop standpoint, the seed obtained being purely for local use.

Owing to the lack of rain during the months of August and September the spinach seed yield in this district was about one-eighth less than during the year 1916. No statistics are published on this subject, but competent authorities estimate the 1917 crop as between 150 and 200 short tons.

PORTUGAL.

[Consul General W. L. Lowrie, Lisbon, Oct. 27.]

The Director of the Department of Agriculture of Portugal states that the quantity of spinach seed on sale in the principal establishments of the country is between 750 and 800 pounds, which may be considered approximately the production for 1917. Some seed is imported from France, Holland, and New Zealand. The price at retail is about 43 cents a pound at present exchange.

SWITZERLAND.

[Vice Consul J. C. McNally, Zurich, Oct. 29.]

According to reports received from reliable expert sources, the production of spinach seed in Switzerland is comparatively very limited, and this country has heretofore been dependent chiefly upon import for its requirements in this line.

The Swiss Federal seed experiment station at Oerlikon has reported that an estimate of the production of spinach seed in Switzerland is difficult owing to the fact that there are no statistics covering the cultivation of spinach, and that, therefore, there is no way of estimating what the Swiss requirements of spinach seed are. The production in any event is exceptionally small, and in the Swiss seed market the observation has been made that while occasionally certain

Swiss seeds, as beans, beet
table varieties are offered for
seed offered. On the occasi
present year there was not
German part of Switzerland
possible that occasionally in
spinach seed is produced, but
to their own use. The entire
zerland is estimated at a fe
part of Switzerland it is po
larger. The spinach seed cou
the dealers that no one consid

The Swiss experiment stati
vation in Waedenswil has re
perience as well as informat
Swiss gardeners have heretof
seed for their own requireme
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produced for their own requi
essary in the future to devote
variety of vegetable seed in S

PINEAPPLES IN

[Consul Harry Campbell, detailed as

Although pineapples are gr
Settlements, the canning of th
ing of the minor industries,
formation available as to the
different localities. Pineappl
catch crop in connection with
grown very easily and with li
ing the first two or three years
been especially attractive to p
holdings on the island of Sing
come during the years that the
while proximity to the canni
marketing simple and inexpen

It is estimated that about 2
on rubber estates on the islan
figures as to acreage in other p
but it appears that the indus
not important, being limited
market purposes.

The value of the exports of
during 1916 was \$2,506,910, co
cating greatly increased price
declined from 810,992 to 783,
siderable increase over 1914,
ported, of a total value of \$1,
the United States amounted
\$16,935.

The new constitution of the State of Vera Cruz-Llave, promulgated on September 16 in Cordoba (the capital) and on October 11 in Vera Cruz, devotes a whole section to the question of labor and the relations of workmen to employers in order to prevent the abuses, especially in the various forms of peonage, which existed in the past.

The maximum time for day labor is 8 hours and that for night labor, i. e., between the hours of 6 p. m. and 6 a. m., is 7 hours. Boys over 12 and under 16 may work only 6 hours, and neither women nor boys under 16 may do night work in factories or work after 10 p. m. in commercial establishments. All laborers must enjoy one day of rest for every six days of work, and women are allowed a month with full pay subsequent to childbirth.

Wages may not be below a minimum to be fixed by local committees, taking into consideration the cost of living in the community, and may not be paid in merchandise or any form of money except legal currency. Wages must be equal for the same kind of work regardless of sex or nationality. Contracts may not provide for the payment of wages in a saloon, store, or the like, except in the case of employees of such establishments, or oblige a workman to buy articles for consumption in a certain shop or place, or compel him to wait longer than a week to get his day wages:

Housing—Strikes and Lockouts.

In the case of large enterprises such as plantations, mines, and factories which employ over 100 laborers, comfortable and hygienic living quarters must be provided at a monthly rent of not over one-half of 1 per cent of their census value; and in case such factories, mines, and the like are located outside large towns provision must also be made for schools and infirmaries and, if the community numbers over 200, for a public market, a building for municipal purposes, and centers of recreation—establishments for the sale of intoxicating liquors and gaming houses, however, being forbidden.

Strikes are declared lawful when the object is to bring about an equilibrium between the different factors of production, provided no acts of violence are committed; but employers may close their factories, mines, or establishments only in case of excess production. Differences between capital and labor are to be submitted to a board of conciliation and arbitration formed of an equal number of representatives of the employers and laborers and one representative of the Government.

No employer may discharge an employee without just cause or for having become a member of a labor organization or for having taken part in a lawful strike unless he indemnify the employee with three months' wages, but the employee may insist on the carrying out of the contract if he prefers. A workman may also insist on receiving three months' wages in case he finds it necessary to leave his work because of maltreatment of himself or members of his family at the hands of the employer or his subordinates when the employer tolerates such illtreatment.

In his opening address to the assembly on November 26 the governor of the Bahama Islands stated that one of the measures to which that body should give early consideration was the raising of additional revenue. Present indications are that the fiscal year 1918 will end with a deficit, import and export duties not providing sufficient funds to meet all expenditures. His excellency further expressed the opinion that there would be no tourist season at Nassau during the coming winter. Extracts from other parts of his address follow:

The food-planting campaign to which I alluded in my address in July last has been on the whole well maintained, notwithstanding a dry spring and late summer rains. In New Providence many more fields are now under cultivation than was the case 12 months ago.

So far as Nassau is concerned, which is the main clearing house for imports and exports, I trust that there will be no need, as has been the case in some of the other West Indian colonies, for the administration to interfere with the ordinary conditions of demand and supply or attempt to fix the price of certain food commodities.

Grading of Sisal Urged.

With respect to the colony's principal exports, sisal and sponge, the prospects of neither are quite so encouraging as they were in the middle of the year. In the case of the former, apart from the fact that the market which for some months past has been unduly inflated, has now fallen considerably (more especially for the hand-cleaned article, which is the bulk of our exports), numerous complaints have been received from responsible agents in New York to the effect that much of the sisal exported from the Bahamas is dirty, ungraded, and shipped in such poor condition as to be practically unsalable. In order to achieve success in this highly competitive age the producer must make a point not only of learning the requirements of the market but of growing, grading, and standardizing his product accordingly. Government inspection has been found in other countries to be the solution of similar difficulties, and in the interest alike of the producer, the middleman, and the good name of the colony in the market to which the product is consigned, it is considered that all sisal should be inspected and graded prior to shipment from Nassau. The owner of the sisal will, as heretofore, be able to sell his product to the highest bidder, but the purchaser will doubtless be more careful as to what he buys. In other words, the bona fide producer of carefully cultivated, long, dry, well-cleaned strands will obtain a better price for his article than his neighbor who neglects his crop and obtains an inferior result. It is only by moving on the above lines that it will be possible to secure an assured market in the United States for the sisal grown in this colony.

There is still considerable demand for the higher grades of sponge. With regard to the shipment of goods from the West Indies to the United Kingdom, I may explain that all liners have been requisitioned by His Majesty's Government, and the shipping controller has drawn up a priority list giving preference to foodstuffs and certain other articles. Sponge is not included in the priority list, although I endeavored to have it placed there.

A colony that has but two main products is undoubtedly handicapped, and seeing that the demand for oils is very great and ever-increasing, no reasonable effort should be spared by the board of agriculture to introduce such an easily grown and quickly maturing drought resister as the castor oil plant (*Ricinus communis*, also known as "Palma Christi"), and at the same time promote the most profitable methods of cultivating it.

I have referred from time to time in the past to the value of the coconut and regret that so little is being done to extend the cultivation of this most valuable palm. With respect to the avocado pear, which is a native of the West Indies and the fruit of which has been shown on analysis to contain over 17 per cent of fats, it ought to be grown in large quantities in every settlement throughout the colony.

A report covering such phases of the administration of justice in Switzerland as are of interest to American business men having dealings in that country was made public to-day by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce. It gives special attention to the jurisdiction of the several courts and to partnerships and corporations, powers of attorney, collection of debts, attachment, bankruptcy laws, and laws relating to trusts and unfair competition.

The text was prepared by Commercial Agent Archibald J. Wolfe and was revised and supplemented by Robert P. Shick, of the Philadelphia bar, and Phanor James Eder, of the New York bar. A previous report by Mr. Wolfe on the commercial laws of England, Scotland, Germany, and France was issued in 1915.

The title of the new report is "Commercial Laws of Switzerland," Special Agents Series No. 150, and copies are obtainable at 10 cents each from the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C., or any of the district offices of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce. The cooperative offices of the bureau have copies for those who apply in person.

CONTROL OF HOOKWORM IN SIAM.

[Vice Consul Carl C. Hansen, Bangkok.]

Dr. M. E. Barnes, representing the International Health Board of the Rockefeller Foundation, reports that during his work for the eradication and control of hookworm in Siam for the six months ended August 31, 1917, persons to the number of 7,577 were examined, and of these 5,669 were found to be infected, of which 3,614 were treated. A number of lectures on sanitation have been given, and much literature relating to this subject has also been distributed during this time. The Siamese Director of Health has recently made a thorough investigation of the work done by Dr. Barnes, and has expressed his great appreciation for the assistance extended to Siam by the International Health Board of the Rockefeller Foundation.

WOOL PRODUCTION IN SWEDEN.

[Commercial Attaché Erwin W. Thompson, Copenhagen, Denmark.]

A recent official report on the wool production of Sweden says there are 300,000 owners of 1,200,000 sheep, and that the average clip is 3 kilos per sheep, making the total production 3,600 metric tons. The owners of the sheep are only allowed to keep for their own use 2 kilos (2.2 pounds) for each member of the family, the remainder being delivered to the Government.

The United States Bureau of Standards has issued an index to Parts 1, 2, and 3 of Circular No. 54 of the Bureau, "The National Electrical Safety Code, Second Edition." Copies may be obtained free by interested persons from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C.

During the present year Calabria has used about 66,000 tons of mulberry leaves in producing about 1,870 tons of silk-worm cocoons. During the same period, Sicily used about 7,150 tons of leaves in producing about 154 tons of cocoons. The figures for the two territorial divisions were practically the same for 1916.

In all Italy about 1,302,290 tons of leaves have been used this year in producing about 33,360 tons of cocoons. During 1916, all Italy used about 1,247,180 tons of leaves in producing about 39,400 tons of cocoons. For all Italy the average consumption of leaves for eight years preceding 1917 was about 1,152,580 tons annually; the corresponding average production of cocoons was about 44,100 tons annually.

From the foregoing it is seen that to produce 1 ton of cocoons 39.03 tons of leaves were used in 1917, 31.66 tons in 1916, and 26.15 tons on an average for the eight years prior to 1917. The increase in leaf consumption for 1917 was thus about 50 per cent greater than the average for the preceding eight years and the production of cocoons was 25 per cent smaller than the average during the same period.

[Consul North Winship, Milan, Nov. 3.]

Production of Mulberry Leaves and Cocoons in Lombardy.

Lombardy leads the other departments of Italy in the production of mulberry leaves and cocoons. Of the total crop of mulberry leaves for the whole of Italy during 1917, amounting to \$1,184,000 tons. Lombardy produced 460,000 tons; and 11,000 tons of cocoons were produced in the department out of the total of 30,300 for the whole of Italy. Other departments in Italy producing mulberry leaves and cocoons in considerable quantities are Veneto and Piedmont.

FISH LANDED AT SEATTLE BY AMERICAN VESSELS.

The fishing fleet landing fishery products at Seattle, Wash., during November, 1917, landed at that port 27 trips aggregating 451,473 pounds of fish, having a value to the fishermen of \$69,255. These products included halibut, 343,403 pounds, valued at \$62,910; sablefish, 96,880 pounds valued at \$6,095; "lingcod," 90 pounds valued at \$2; and red rockfish, 11,100 pounds valued at \$248. In addition to this catch, collecting vessels landed 1,068,001 pounds of salmon, smelt, and other species valued at \$73,514.

Bulletin on Concrete Ships.

A bulletin has been issued by the Portland Cement Association, entitled "Concrete ships—a possible solution of the shipping problem," which contains interesting and valuable information in regard to the construction and use of concrete ships and barges. Copies of this publication can be secured free of charge by addressing the Portland Cement Association, 111 West Washington Street, Chicago, Ill.

[Correspondence should be direct
information can usually be obtained
the work is to be performed. In c
to submit tenders, they should ask
ceive notices calling for future sup]

Printing, No. 4963.—Sealed pro
Depot, United States Army
December 18, 1917, for pri
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Building construction, No. 4965.
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A list of American manuf
obtained from the Bureau c
district or cooperative offices

OFFICES OF THE BUREAU OF

DISTRICT OFFICES.

NEW YORK: 734 Customhouse.
BOSTON: 1801 Customhouse.
CHICAGO: 504 Federal Building.
ST. LOUIS: 402 Third National Bank Bu
NEW ORLEANS: 1020 Hibernia Bank Bu
SAN FRANCISCO: 307 Customhouse.
SEATTLE: 848 Henry Building.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the **Bureau** and its **district and cooperative offices**. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and state **opportunity number**. The **Bureau** does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases. Symbols: * Reported by American consular officers; † Reported by commercial attachés and commercial agents; ‡ Direct inquiries received by the Bureau.

In considering the following "opportunities" special regard should be had to the laws and regulations governing export licenses and trade with the enemy.

Agricultural machinery-----	26078	General agencies-----	26084
Baling wire-----	26078	Machinery-----	26081, 26083, 26085
Bolts-----	26078	Molds-----	26078
Cement-----	26080	Nails-----	26078
Cottonseed oil-----	26079	Sisal cord-----	26078
Dyes-----	26077	Skins-----	26082
Garden tools-----	26078	Sulphur-----	26086

26077.*—A man in France desires to purchase dyes derived chiefly from dye woods, such as campeche, indigo, aniline, and others. Samples, catalogues, and price lists should be submitted. He would consider an agency proposition. Quotations should be made f. o. b. New York. Correspondence should be in French. References.

26078.*—A firm in Algeria wishes to buy nails of all kinds, machine bolts, and garden tools, such as spades, rakes, hoes, etc. It also desires to secure an agency for the sale of agricultural machinery, such as mowing machines, hay rakes, hay presses, small gas and gasoline engines, sisal cord for harvesting machines, and wire for baling hay. Correspondence should be in French. Reference.

26079.*—A man in Switzerland desires to represent American manufacturers and exporters of cottonseed oil. Payment will be made by cash against documents. Correspondence should be in French, if possible, otherwise in English. Reference.

26080.*—A company in Portugal is in the market for cement. Quotations should be made f. o. b. New York. Payment will be made by opening credit in New York. Correspondence may be in English. References.

26081.*—A man in Switzerland desires to purchase complete machinery and equipment for the treatment of medicinal herbs. Correspondence should be in French or Russian.

26082.*—A business man in Egypt is in the market for 300 dozen skins each for making shoes, of leather, glace kid, patent leather, cossack hides, high-class veal and box calf in colors and black. Quotations should be made f. o. b. New York. Payment will be made by cash upon receipt of goods. Correspondence may be in English. References.

26083.*—A contractor in France wishes to buy molds for making concrete walls, elevators, and automatic pumps or distributors for concrete, and machines for tamping concrete. Payment will be made by cash against documents. Correspondence should be in French.

26084.*—A company in Honduras desires to secure agencies for the sale of American products in Honduras, Nicaragua, and Salvador through branch offices and traveling salesmen. Quotations should be made f. o. b. New York and New Orleans. Usual credit terms are desired. Correspondence may be in English. References.

26085.*—A firm in England is in the market for malling machines, woodworking machinery, and machinery for making brushes of all kinds, including paint brushes. Payment will be made by cash against documents or by opening credit. Goods should be securely packed for transportation. References.

26086.*—A man in Portugal desires to purchase sulphur. Quotations should be made f. o. b. New York. Payment will be made against documents. Correspondence may be in English. References.

WASHINGTON : GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE : 1911



No. 295 Washington, D.

C

Names removed from enemy trading
list
Prices of live stock in Switzerland
Salaries increased to meet high cost
of living
Japan's embargo on exports of fertil-
izers
Apple trade of Hongkong
Irish crop report for mid-October
Crop conditions in Paraguay
River service between Bolivia and
Uruguay
Foreign trade's part in winning the
war

NAMES REMOVED

- The War Trade Board an
been removed from the "Ene

La Vanguardia, Buenos Aires, A
F. J. Alvarado & Co., San Jose,
Correio da Manha, Rio de Jan
Harold Denniston, La Paz, Boli

PRICES OF LIVE

[Consul Lewis V

The price of oxen bought at
the pair; bulls were sold for
each; young cows, \$160 to \$2
porks, \$12 to \$16 each; mediu
porks, 32 cents per pound; sh

SALARIES INCREASED

[Consul John F. Jewell, Louren

Owing to the great advance
ment has increased the salari
under 1,800 escudos (\$1,945) p
have amounted to 45 per cent

The resultant excess of exp
salaries is in round figures \$
any additional expenditure v
at present and in future hin
of the Province of Mozambic
government has increased th
kiosks, etc., the telegraph and
sugar and has established a
expected from these measur
\$216,000; telegraph and teleph
\$46,600.

The authorities have issued the following explanation to the press concerning the embargo on exports of fertilizers:

Exports of composite fertilizers containing sulphate of ammonia, phosphate of lime, and Chilean nitrate will be absolutely prohibited except under special license from the Government. Hitherto the consumption of sulphate of ammonia in this country has amounted to about 100,000 tons a year, valued at \$7,000,000 to \$7,500,000, and formerly the domestic output of this substance amounted to only a few thousand tons. The outbreak of the war caused a heavy decline in imports, with the result that the demand was greatly in excess of the supply. This state of things, however, has had the effect of stimulating the domestic industry, and while the home production of sulphate of ammonia in 1914 amounted to no more than 7,000, in 1916 it was rated at 26,000 tons. This year it is expected to amount to about 45,000 in addition to about 12,000 manufactured as a by-product by gas companies, or about 57,000 tons. The domestic supply of sulphate of ammonia has thus greatly increased, but now that imports have practically been suspended altogether, it is still no more than half the quantity consumed.

Stimulated by Prices of Farm Products.

The recent advance in the price of agricultural products has appreciably stimulated the demand for fertilizers, and the supply of sulphate of ammonia will become even shorter. Moreover, there has been a tendency for this substance to be exported in increasing quantities, adding considerably to the causes responsible for the steadily rising prices. The Government accordingly has seen the necessity of regulating supply and demand by restricting the exports.

The scarcity of tonnage has rendered it very difficult to import phosphate, and prices for this material have advanced two to three fold as compared with prewar quotations. A further advance is likely if the market is left to itself. High-priced phosphate makes superphosphate of lime expensive, and in addition to the steady advance in price stocks have been rapidly running low. This is the reason why the Government has prohibited exports of fertilizers containing superphosphate of lime.

In the manufacture of bisuperphosphate of lime the same material is used as in the preparation of the superphosphate. The output of bisuperphosphate, however, is yet quite small, nor is there any particular domestic demand for it, its manufacture in this country having been started after the outbreak of the war exclusively for export. The Government, therefore, has not prohibited the export.

Effect on Sulphate of Ammonia.

Of artificial fertilizers, sulphate of ammonia is chiefly exported and has advanced in price in the largest measure—that is, about three times the normal figure, or \$224 per ton. In sulphate of ammonia also speculative operations have caused a considerable advance in price. It is expected, therefore, that the export restric-

ammonia than on that of the
apply.

As to paper, it is not expected
any particular effect in sending
of European-style paper amounting
about 20 per cent is exported. The
entire output is devoted to do
be insufficient, while it is not un-
facturers and merchants who
will take steps against any possible
result from the prohibition of

[A previous article in relation to
certain exports was published in Co

APPLE TRADE

[Consul General George E. And

Efforts are being made both
importers in Hongkong to increase
the Hongkong field. There has
population in South China since
rates (and consequently prices)
materially, with the result that
hardly up to the ordinary standard
classes of Chinese consumers are
more freely, and there is some
ordinary and cheaper grades.
the general run of higher-class
Most Chinese do not know good
in this market have always been

The ordinary retail price for
“seconds” grade is 25 cents per
change this means about 17 cents
grade apples has advanced to
cents gold, a pound. Natural
tion. While there is considerable
market because of the length of
storage facilities there is no
evident that the trade in fine
foreign dealers who demand
lower-grade fruit is handled
markets here. Prices at retail
currency up—averaging perhaps
11 cents gold, a pound. Such
apples and usually handle good
result that the fruit is not poorer
ties than would be the case

Representatives of American
will be made the current season
to Chinese consumers. The
one to handle. It may easily
cold storage to care for excess

According to the Agricultural Statistics of Ireland the total acreage under crops in 1916 was 4,806,575. The acreage under crops this year is 5,570,453, showing an increase of 763,878 acres, or 16 per cent. The total area under potatoes in 1917 is 709,263 acres, as compared with 586,308 acres in 1916, an increase of 122,955, or 21 per cent; under hay, 2,532,723 acres, as compared with 2,406,247 acres in 1916, an increase of 126,476 acres, or 5.3 per cent.

The condition of the principal crops at mid-October is indicated in the following paragraphs, which are condensed from information supplied by the reports issued by the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction for Ireland.

Grain, Potatoes, and Flax.

Grain.—The wheat crop has all been cut and stacked. As a rule autumn-sown wheat cropped best, though in some counties it is stated that the spring varieties gave better results. Some thrashing has already been done, and though there was more loss than usual from shedding, yields are stated to be over average. The quality of the grain already thrashed is in some cases described as soft. The winter varieties have given very good results. The oat crop promises a heavy yield of grain and is stated to be one of the best crops for years. The barley crop is being thrashed; yields are on the light side. Some of the grain is discolored and samples are very uneven. Rye, which is very sparsely sown, has turned out to be good on deep, dry soil, but on low, moist land was late in ripening and is below average.

Potatoes.—Some reports indicate that the potato crop is not as heavy as was originally anticipated, but the opinion is general that it will be well over average. Potatoes grown on newly broken up land are an especially heavy crop and are estimated by some to yield 2 tons per acre over land that has been ordinarily under tillage. There are some complaints of disease spreading among tubers owing to the continued wet weather, and this would appear to be more prevalent in some varieties than in others.

Flax.—Saving of the flax crop was much interfered with by the broken weather. Little scutching has yet been done, but the results so far show that yields, while varying, are likely to be below average. It is too soon yet to gauge the quality, but some reports state that it will be good.

Hay, Live Stock, and Poultry.

Hay.—Very little of the old meadow hay crop has been well saved. A large proportion has been made up in very poor condition and will be of little worth as fodder. It is expected that hay of all sorts will be very scarce and dear in the spring months. Pastures have afforded good grazing of late, but the herbage is soft and innutritious owing to continued rains, and for this reason cattle have not thriven so well as in other years.

Live stock.—Prices for store bullocks are slightly lower than they were some months ago, though values are still high. Springers and in-calf heifers are in strong demand, and there is also keen buying

cows are also bringing high figures (\$220) being paid. Polled breeders for export are meeting with keen demand. Owing to the recent cold nights, wool values are well maintained and are anticipated that fat sheep will bring high prices. Pork values still rule high, and are anticipated to be high (\$32) per hundredweight dead weight in the country. Young pigs are selling in cases as much as £4 to £4 10s. (\$16.00 to \$16.50).

Poultry.—Turkeys and geese are scarce and dear owing to the high cost of feed, which has made turkeys difficult to rear, and the supply is so large as in other years. In some cases they are said to be up to the average. No export across channel from Colombia. The price of these was about 3s. (roughly \$0.75) per dozen. The supply is small and an advance in prices is anticipated.

CROP CONDITIONS

[Consul Henry H.]

According to reports from the interior, the drought of over two months' duration has broken, and the appearance of the crops has been damaged the mandioca [cassava] and other staple crops of Paraguay. The drought is causing considerable damage to the crops, particularly the mandioca, and any shortage in the supply of this crop can be substituted for it at the present time.

Moreover, prices for all in such heights that the average price is high. The supply of imported food is low because of railway strikes in Paraguay and the train service between Asunción and Montevideo is seriously interfered with in both countries.

Recent rains, however, promise to improve the train service. The train service has been resumed and steamer service has become normal. The supply of food to restock the imported food line is good. On the whole, the outlook is bright.

RIVER SERVICE BETWEEN

[Commercial Attaché William]

The Belgian-South American steamer service between the Bolivian city of Montevideo. The *Inca*, owned by the company, flies the flag of

"The event of transcending importance to the foreign trade of the country during 1917 was the entrance of the United States into the war," declares Burwell S. Cutler in his first annual report as chief of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce. "From the beginning of the war to the time of our entrance into it," continues Mr. Cutler, "the business of the American manufacturer and exporter was to make the most of new opportunities in the markets of nonbelligerent countries, to take wise and needful steps in preparation for trade after the war, and to sell munitions and supplies to the belligerents."

"These were legitimate activities. They were vital to the industrial life of the Nation. But when we entered the war the perspective changed. Trade with our war associates assumed a new, a different, a much greater significance in our eyes. It became primarily a means of winning the war rather than of winning profits. It became a link between the greatest storehouse in the world and the European nations with whom we had cast our lot in the world struggle."

Development of Future Markets.

"Our attitude toward the markets in nonbelligerent countries has also changed as a matter of course. Trade with them must now be conducted with a careful and patriotic deference to the successful prosecution of the war. Preparations that we make to hold our place in those markets and to expand our opportunities must be made for the time being with strict reference to policies which govern our political relations. However, it is confidently expected that our trade with South America, the Far East, South Africa, and with Australia will not be too seriously interfered with, and that we may reap in the future the benefits of having cultivated those markets so assiduously and intelligently during the past few years."

"Important as it is that we hold our own advantage in these and other markets, we must not lose sight of the fact that all such advantages are likely to disappear if we do not come out of the war victoriously."

The report reviews in an exhaustive manner the foreign trade of the country during the fiscal year ended June 30, 1917, which it refers to as "our greatest year in foreign trade." The statistics are arranged to show the growth of trade, month by month, since 1913, so that the effect of the war may be easily traced.

Considerable space is given to the unusual activities of the Bureau during the year that resulted from the entrance of the United States into the war, these activities, including the organization of a staff for licensing exports, work in connection with the tin-plate conservation campaign, the collection of information concerning foreign embargo legislation, the facilitation of imports of raw materials from Russia, the protection of American trade-marks in foreign countries, and numerous others, all of which were carried on by the regular Bureau staff, except the export-license work, for which volunteer work was accepted from the outside.

Increase in Number of Special Agents.

Attention is called to the increased extent to which foreign markets have been studied through the agency of traveling special agents.

employ of the Bureau, while at the same time it has been doubled. The information has been furnished to American manufacturers to extend to help them prepare for trade after the war.

Before entering the Bureau, Mr. [Name] was a manufacturing concern, a fact that has been estimated of the Bureau's service to the manufacturing industry.

"As a practical manufacturer, I find that a misapprehension of the Bureau's service is a typical ignorance of the Bureau's work. I emphasize the conviction that the Bureau's service to the Commerce is a genuinely productive one, calculated to assist our manufacturers in a useful way."

BOND SUBSCRIPTIONS IN DEPARTMENT

Subscriptions by officers and employees of the Department for liberty-loan bonds of the first issue, to \$1,116,550 and \$600,000, have now been received from all bureaus and offices. The amounts by bureaus or offices. The subscriptions by employees of the Department is no longer in the Department figures, the Department showed a first issue. The statement for the

Bureau or office.	First issue.	Second issue.
Secretary's Office.....	\$12,300	\$13,000
Census Office.....	55,600	49,450
Foreign and Domestic Commerce.....	28,150	10,350
Standards.....	38,000	42,500
Fisheries.....	36,000	36,100
Lighthouses.....	222,450	310,650
Coast Survey.....	47,200	80,300
Navigation.....	12,900	15,750

MONETARY LEGISLATION

[Commercial Attaché William F.]

The National Government of Ecuador has issued subsidiary coins of nickel and of copper to the total value of 200,000 sucres (at the actual rate of exchange). Silver coins are in circulation, and the supply of small coins is sufficient for the business of the country. Additional small coins.

The two principal varieties of grapes grown in the Malaga district are the muscatel and the Pedro Ximen. Raisins and wine are both made here from the muscatel and wine from the Pedro Ximen.

The vines are not trained on arbors, but are pruned to form bushes that cover an area of about 1 square yard at harvest time. The vines are set out in rows 10 feet apart. During the spring and summer they are carefully cultivated and sprayed with sulphate of copper to destroy insects. The grapes begin to ripen about the 1st of August. Laborers with large flat baskets or trays gather the fruit. It is not all cut out at one time, but the field is gone over periodically and only the ripe clusters are cut from the vine with scissors.

The Drying Process.

The raisins produced near Malaga are not treated with sulphur, lye, or oil, as is the practice in other parts of Spain. In or near the grape field there is thrown up an earth terrace inclined toward the setting sun. This is divided into sections about 10 yards long and 2 yards wide, around which a low brick or stone wall is built, to protect the raisins and to support the canvas stretched over them at night or during inclement weather. The object of this slanting surface is to keep the sun constantly shining upon it. The bottoms of the drying beds are covered with fine gravel to retain the heat.

Immediately after being gathered, the grapes are spread out on the beds for exposure to the burning sun. At nightfall the raisins are covered with canvas to protect the fruit from the heavy dew, and, as stated, the canvas is also spread over them in the event of rain. There is rarely any rain in this section during May, June, July, August, and September. During the process of drying the grapes that remain green or become spoiled are carefully removed, and the clusters are turned from time to time in order that they may color uniformly. The drying process takes about three weeks, so that the first raisins of the season are ready for packing about the end of August. Heaviest shipments go forward in September.

Packing Methods and Materials.

Before packing the raisins are sorted and graded. After small and imperfect raisins have been cut off the clusters are laid in boxes lined with white paper and containing usually 22 or 25 pounds of fruit. Good fruit which has become detached from clusters through shaking and raisins cut from small and irregular clusters are separated from the rejected fruit and are also packed for shipment. The boxes of raisins are then brought to Malaga by the growers for disposal to the shippers and dealers. The prices realized vary considerably according to the quality of the fruit and the quantity of the crop, also according to the condition of the industry in the other countries where raisins are produced and the general demand in the world markets.

It is estimated that one-third of the raisins exported to the United States go forward in the original packing as received from the vineyard, the boxes being opened at Malaga for inspection and to

repacked in 1, 2, and 5 pounds of packing raisins for export. "French" method, so called according to the demand to pack the raisins, either in drying beds and without heat, this method is used especially in this method the raisins are flattened out the raisin to its full length.

The boxes in which they are packed under contract from box makers, each, and are usually made of Foreign shooks have no difficulty of recovering them. The wrappers and cartons formerly Germany supplied, ribbon used; at present they

Malaga's Foreign Trade in Raisins

This year's raisin crop is said to be abundant ruling fairly high notwithstanding belligerent countries and has been maintained chiefly by exchange. Shipments to foreign countries have hitherto been stopped by British imposing French permits. That of the crop left on their hands forward to purchases for foreign countries rumors are current that delegate here, prices are meantime meetings of government petitions have been transacting it to intercede with them to make arrangements with foreign countries.

According to the Spanish Government from Spain during 1914 (2,204.6 pounds); in 1915 Malaga's share in 1916 went to France, 2,080 tons to the United States, 508 tons to Holland, 238 to Sweden.

The raisin industry has it was in the middle of the last century was the substitution of portation improved, and raisin grapes in other countries which first made its pro-

raisins.

Declared Exports to United States.

Malaga's raisin trade with the United States has greatly diminished in that last 35 years, as the statistics of declared exports during that period disclose:

Years.	Value.	Years.	Value.	Years.	Value.
1882.....	\$1,471,182	1894.....	\$91,840	1906.....	\$190,428
1883.....	1,288,996	1895.....	83,846	1907.....	163,850
1881.....	1,417,300	1896.....	113,268	1908.....	113,892
1885.....	1,447,884	1897.....	77,730	1909.....	185,581
1886.....	881,851	1898.....	89,078	1910.....	135,737
188.....	632,692	1899.....	190,814	1911.....	170,347
1888.....	297,744	1900.....	130,390	1912.....	135,884
189.....	238,688	1901.....	120,603	1913.....	156,540
1890.....	193,915	1902.....	187,529	1914.....	154,433
1891.....	135,957	1903.....	91,305	1915.....	131,696
1892.....	189,817	1904.....	187,151	1916.....	198,329
1893.....	74,147	1905.....	172,966		

In addition to the Phylloxera plague the development of the California raisin industry and a protective tariff (now 2 cents a pound) have adversely affected Malaga's raisin trade with the United States.

CULTIVATION OF OIL-YIELDING PLANTS IN DENMARK.

[Commercial Attaché Erwin W. Thompson, Copenhagen, Nov. 3.]

At a large meeting of farmers' associations recently held in Copenhagen, there was much discussion about the planting of oil-yielding plants, such as flax and hemp. There has been a general tendency toward increasing the areas planted to grain, but on account of the growing scarcity of fats and edible oils, it now seems to be desirable to grow more oil-yielding plants, especially as the residue left after pressing out the oil (oil cakes) will help to supply the great deficiency in cattle feeds.

Record Year for Kingston Consulate.

Under date of December 5 Consul Felix S. S. Johnson, of Kingston, Ontario, reports that on the basis of business already done the declared exports from that Canadian district to the United States during the present calendar year will approximate \$5,000,000 in value, as contrasted with \$2,434,642 in 1916 and \$1,288,281 in 1915. In 1910 Kingston had an export trade with the United States of less than \$300,000.

OFFICES OF THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE.

DISTRICT OFFICES.

NEW YORK: 734 Customhouse.
BOSTON: 1801 Customhouse.
CHICAGO: 504 Federal Building.
ST. LOUIS: 402 Third National Bank Building.
NEW ORLEANS: 1020 Hibernia Bank Building.
SAN FRANCISCO: 807 Customhouse.
SEATTLE: 848 Henry Building.

COOPERATIVE OFFICES.

CLEVELAND: Chamber of Commerce.
CINCINNATI: Chamber of Commerce.
CINCINNATI: General Freight Agent, Southern Railway, 96 Ingalls Building.
LOS ANGELES: Chamber of Commerce.
PHILADELPHIA: Chamber of Commerce.
CHATTANOOGA: South American Agent, Southern Railway System.
PORTLAND, OREG.: Chamber of Commerce.
DAYTON: Greater Dayton Association.

The "In- en Uitvoer" of September 26 publishes the following analysis of Dutch foreign trade during the first half of 1917:

The value of the leading articles imported into Holland from Germany, or, rather, of those articles which are included in the official figures of the Central Bureau for Statistics ("Maandstatistiek van den In- en Uitvoer en van het Entrepotverkeer"), in the first quarter of this year was 25,365,107 florins (about \$10,400,000 at exchange of \$0.41) and, in the second quarter, 45,284,606 florins (about \$18,567,000), a total of 70,649,713 florins in the first six months of 1917. The value of the chief articles exported to Germany was 49,247,575 florins (about \$20,191,500) in the first quarter and 52,841,202 florins (about \$21,665,000) in the second, or 102,088,777 florins for the half year. Thus, in the first quarter Holland sent almost twice as much to Germany as it received, but in the second quarter the import trade with Germany almost balanced the export trade.

Leading Imports from Germany.

The following statistics include the principal imports from Germany (only those imports the value of which amounted to more than 100,000 florins during the half year are given):

Articles.	First quarter of 1917.	First half of 1917.	Articles.	First quarter of 1917.	First half of 1917.
	<i>Florins.</i>	<i>Florins.</i>		<i>Florins.</i>	<i>Florins.</i>
Coal, lignite, and briquets ..	6,851,076	23,100,418	Silk:		
Cement and mortar	645,250	4,072,901	Fabrics	201,915	339,843
Iron, manufactures of:			Laces and trimmings ..	148,575	217,926
Pig iron	6,221	226,661	Ribbons and cords ..	200,256	325,994
Wrought and band iron ..	1,390,510	5,549,148	Woolen and cow-hair rugs		
Iron rails and cross-			and carpets	30,579	226,256
pieces	15,641	119,728	Fancy goods	930,417	1,561,645
Cast and wrought iron			Clay and porcelain articles ..	746,314	1,564,845
pipes	124,718	1,123,665	Glass and glassware ..	895,184	2,051,723
Other iron and steel			Paper	2,481,363	4,970,811
work	2,118,635	4,955,551	Salt, unrefined	128,684	465,535
Zinc, and manufactures of ..	225,033	232,570	Sugar	235,025	235,041
Soda	113,035	394,135	Bicycles	325,696	446,264
Potash	349,559	1,246,898	Machinery, factory and		
Chemical products	491,037	1,120,484	agricultural, and steam		
Indigo	160,331	558,309	engines	3,580,111	9,386,061
Alizarin, etc.	191,435	436,979	Pianos, pianolas, etc.	600,015	1,047,160
Lumber for shipbuilding			Haberdashery	810,425	1,651,665
and carpentry	887,476	2,506,373			

The above statistics omit many important articles, e. g., potash salts, of which Holland imported about 70,000,000 florins worth in 1916.

Chief Exports to Germany.

The following table gives the Dutch exports to Germany of those articles whose shipments aggregated more than 100,000 florins in value during the first six months of 1917:

Articles.	First quarter of 1917.	First half of 1917.	Articles.	First quarter of 1917.	First half of 1917.
	<i>Florins.</i>	<i>Florins.</i>		<i>Florins.</i>	<i>Florins.</i>
Animals: Cows		505,321	Meat and dairy products:		
Fish:			Fresh pork	4,770,885	4,770,885
Smoked herring	12,285	265,111	Salt pork and bacon ..	3,344,876	3,506,252
Pickled herring	66,965	875,532	Prepared margarine		
Fresh-water fish	892,968	1,970,477	and artificial butter ..	1,596,245	2,196,140
Fresh sea-fish	1,203,417	2,947,176	Butter	4,147,933	19,600,839
			Cheese	13,058,268	21,400,647

Articles.	First quarter of 1917.	First half of 1917.	Articles.	First quarter of 1917.	First half of 1917.
	<i>Florins.</i>	<i>Florins.</i>		<i>Florins.</i>	<i>Florins.</i>
Eggs.....	4,802,993	15,145,078	Paper, all kinds.....	156,601	286,612
Linseed.....		1,079,972	Coffee.....	794,101	1,077,438
Fresh fruit.....	11	1,292,802	Tobacco.....	9,002,352	13,488,636
Flax, raw, broken and scutched.....	1,181,000	4,411,551	Cigars.....	88,985	250,069
Peruvian bark.....	565,876	1,211,042	Wine, bottled.....	103,628	191,677
Potato flour.....	2,706,541	3,321,316	Machinery, manufacturing and agricultural, and steam engines.....	51,898	102,067
Chemical products.....	182,836	276,127			
Hubber.....	132,725	665,951			
Hides and skins, unprepared, except cowhides..	86,623	183,873			

Of the 185 articles on the export list of the Central Bureau for Statistics, 87 show no exports whatever to Germany in the first quarter. The Dutch export prohibitions are largely responsible for this.

Trade with the United Kingdom.

Holland's exports to the United Kingdom in the first quarter of 1917 (most important articles as listed by the Central Bureau for Statistics) amounted to 52,459,106 florins (about \$21,508,000), and in the second quarter to 45,593,016 florins (about \$18,693,000), thus making the total for the first half year 98,052,122 florins. The United Kingdom exported 36,884,348 florins (about \$15,122,600) worth to Holland in the first quarter and 27,969,357 florins (about \$11,467,400) worth in the second, making a total of 64,853,705 florins (most important articles) during the first half year.

Holland's imports from the United Kingdom embraced:

Articles.	First quarter of 1917.	First half of year 1917.	Articles.	First quarter of 1917.	First half of year 1917.
	<i>Florins.</i>	<i>Florins.</i>		<i>Florins.</i>	<i>Florins.</i>
Suet lard.....	124,501	168,834	Hides, cow, fresh or salted	126,786	126,786
Grease.....	686,737	1,640,320	Yarns:		
Oleomargarine.....	379,325	455,227	Cotton, not twisted, unbleached.....	438,020	12,939,645
Wool:			Cotton, not twisted, bleached or dyed.....	28,974	256,411
Raw, unwashed.....	424,068	627,794	Cotton, double-twisted.....	429,214	679,372
Washed.....	608,661	1,102,881	Cotton, for sewing.....	227,504	591,549
Combed.....	262,946	381,018	Wool, not twisted.....	179,683	239,920
Waste of wool and yarn.....	500,497	926,550	Wool, twisted.....	798,313	986,717
Artificial wool.....	290,465	539,867	Flax or hemp, not twisted.....	1,536	228,804
Guano.....	138,219	138,218	Not elsewhere specified	86,056	156,024
Cabbage seed.....	1,047,319	2,475,822	Cotton fabrics:		
Groundnuts.....	53,205	202,535	Unbleached or bleached	1,285,076	2,294,757
Copra.....	296,893	296,893	Stamped or dyed.....	1,377,753	2,643,466
Palm pits.....	736,537	1,801,081	Wool fabrics:		
Cocoa beans.....	291,124	292,984	Cloth or "buckskin".....	994,768	1,761,420
Cotton, raw.....	1,791,020	3,529,223	Other cloth, except flannel.....	801,358	1,876,748
Coal.....	4,060,751	4,977,508	Carpets of wool and cow-hair.....	282,470	561,394
Cement and mortar.....	220,774	1,027,719	Textiles, not elsewhere specified.....	131,972	323,453
Iron:			Woven and knit underwear	239,904	431,883
Sheets, bands, forged.....	155,063	303,870	Articles of fashion.....	329,505	564,473
Spikes and nails.....	14,020	255,986	Sanitary earthenware.....	115,978	100,864
Iron and steel work not otherwise specified.....	167,833	251,917	Paper, all kinds.....	135,322	227,826
Copper sheets, and brass.....	143,927	301,939	Coffee.....	117,315	117,315
Copper and brass work.....	153,310	162,032	Salt.....	75,250	145,500
Soda.....	757,285	1,064,367	Cigars.....	194,221	422,580
Chemical products.....	295,723	581,965	Bicycles.....	121,883	160,453
Oils:			Machinery, manufacturing and agricultural, and steam engines.....	904,666	1,455,393
Groundnut.....	621,436	663,776			
Rapeseed.....	879,157	2,775,694			
Cocunut.....		898,665			
Soy-bean.....	1,733,423	2,457,261			
Other vegetable oils.....	2,083,823	4,090,086			
Mineral lubricating oil.....	376,054	431,007			
Turpentine.....	306,322	363,836			

Any project which has for its purpose the betterment of animal breeding is certain to attract attention in Brazil, since the country has come to realize its full possibilities in ranching and similar operations. The development has been going on slowly and almost imperceptibly for several years. Some ranch owners at their own expense have imported various types of cattle and experimented individually with crossbreeding. Work in this direction also has been done by the National Society of Agriculture in Rio de Janeiro, seconded by State cattle associations and ranchmen's leagues.

Census of Live Stock.

Recently a commission appointed by the President of Brazil for the study and conservation of the national resources has been at work on a census of live stock, taken from the reports of municipalities. The statistics of horses and mules by States are summarized as follows:

States.	Horses.	Mules.	States.	Horses.	Mules.
	<i>Number.</i>	<i>Number.</i>		<i>Number.</i>	<i>Number.</i>
Alagoas.....	96,590	27,930	Parana.....	217,060	121,920
Amazonas.....	8,740	4,540	Pernambuco.....	211,990	106,130
Bahia.....	809,940	614,030	Plahuv.....	164,690	71,030
Ceara.....	218,300	106,270	Rio de Janeiro.....	142,890	101,200
Distrito Federal.....	5,600	16,670	Roi Grande do Norte.....	85,690	78,680
Espirito Santo.....	78,590	95,070	Rio Grande do Sul.....	1,050,110	263,720
Govaz.....	265,330	91,950	Santa Catharina.....	140,070	56,570
Maranhao.....	149,490	38,410	Sao Paulo.....	497,970	372,230
Matto Grosso.....	149,490	22,900	Sergipe.....	93,040	39,340
Minas Geraes.....	1,505,600	832,440	Territorio do Acre.....	530	6,570
Para.....	57,650	9,380			
Parahyba.....	106,760	86,320	Total.....	6,065,230	3,221,910

Attention has been attracted to the discussion in the Brazilian Congress of a bill for the creation of a national equine stud, with the special object of fixing a type of Brazilian cavalry horse. The measure is opportune now that Brazil has entered the world war. It is one of the very few countries left in the world where vast stretches of natural pasture still exist, undisturbed by fencing and homesteads. The principal ones would seem to be the enormous table-land of the States of Matto Grosso and Goyaz and the vast rolling plains of the State of Rio Grande do Sul.

Brazil Lacks National Type of Horse.

There is at present no real type of Brazilian horse in the country, although excellent specimens abound, chiefly in the south, which are the results of crossbreeding by various ranchmen. There is no real type of Brazilian cavalry horse because thus far no standard has been set for it. The bill provides that the Government shall select a suitable type of crossbreed and distribute foreign blood horses for stud purposes throughout the country by means of a central station in Rio de Janeiro and 14 others through the ranching portions of the Republic, as follows: State of Rio Grande do Sul, 5 posts, Paraná, 2 posts; Sao Paulo, 3 posts; Minas Geraes, 3 posts; and Matto Grosso, 1 post.

The central station at Rio de Janeiro would be charged with the work of importing the required type of sires, distributing them to

establishing prizes for such ever necessary to encourage be managed by a board of assisted by a subdirector of surgeons; and a board on view in horse breeding, to be composed of officers of experience.

Would Get Technical Aid from

The bill further provides that blacksmith and horseshoe Rio de Janeiro, and others be charged with teaching introducing the recognized country.

The bill provides that there shall be pure-bred thoroughbreds, and it lays alone will not produce good must be carefully selected the breeder who applies to a given number of mares the post veterinarian, who for the purposes of cavalry it to further service later. being considered part of the reexamined yearly to determine

Money Prizes to be Offered.

Money prizes are to be he owns 50 animals of the foaled under the prescribed

These and other provisions is still a bill merely and reports of Brazil. The Department of Agriculture and horse loving surgeon and horse loving richest ranching section studied this subject in Brazil

[An article on live stock in July 19, 1917.]

WAGES IN MIDLAND

[Consul E. Haldeman]

The female machine operators of Walsall leather trades have on October 15 last. Female machine operators are to receive 10 per cent premium rate for those of 18 machine operators for machine for hot-wax machines, a time rate for female operators remain as at present, provided for one year the time rate. Time and a half has been

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the Bureau and its district and cooperative offices. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and state opportunity number. The Bureau does not furnish credit ratings, or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases. Symbols: * Reported by American consular officers; † Reported by commercial attachés and commercial agents; ‡ Direct inquiries received by the Bureau.

In considering the following "opportunities" special regard should be had to the laws and regulations governing export licenses and trading with the enemy.

Building material.....	26003	Hosiery.....	26090
Chemical products.....	26097	Machinery.....	26093
Clothing.....	26089	Rosin.....	26065
Dress goods.....	26090	Sport coats.....	26091
Fents.....	26090	Steel products.....	26093
General merchandise.....	26078	Wearing apparel.....	26096
Gloves.....	26090	Wires and cables.....	26094
Hats.....	26002	Wood.....	26088

26087.‡—A man in Argentina desires to represent, on a commission basis, American manufacturers and exporters of general merchandise, including thread, silk, cotton, wool, hosiery, cravats, suspenders, garters, textiles, cassimere, and buttons. Catalogues, prices, correspondence, labels, etc., should be in Spanish. Reference.

26088.*—A company in Portugal desires to purchase rosin, wood for joiners, such as walnut, oak, rose, etc. Quotations should be made f. o. b. New York. Credit will be opened in New York for payment. Correspondence may be in English. Reference.

26089.‡—A firm in India is in the market for old clothing, such as frock coats, morning coats, vests, police tunics, scarlet tunics, etc., and fents or cloth pieces of 1 yard or more. These goods are desired in large quantities. Reference.

26090.*—A company in England desires to secure an agency, on a commission basis, for the sale of cloth suitable for making coats and costumes for women, hosiery, fabric gloves, and knitted sport coats. Reference.

26091.‡—A firm in India wishes to receive prices and full information from American manufacturers and exporters of machine lathes, tools, and foundry equipment. Printed matter, illustrated catalogues, and best trade discounts should be submitted.

26092.†—An agency is desired by a company in Peru for the sale of hats of all kinds for men. It is willing to purchase samples. Correspondence should be in Spanish. Reference.

26093.*—A man in Brazil wishes to secure an agency for the sale of steel products and building material. Quotations should be made f. o. b. New York. Ninety days credit is desired. Correspondence may be in English. References.

26094.*—An importer in Portugal desires to purchase wires and cables of all kinds. Quotations may be made f. o. b. New York. Payment will be made against documents. Correspondence may be in English. References.

26095.*—A firm in Brazil desires to purchase barrel-making machinery of all kinds, complete from logs to finished barrel. The firm desires this machinery for its own use, but later on would like to act as representative sales agent for the sale of same. Quotations should be made f. o. b. New York. Payment will be made in 30 days. Correspondence should be in Portuguese or Spanish. References.

26096.†—A woman in Peru desires to purchase samples of women's apparel, especially summer dresses and light-weight suits, lingerie of fine quality, etc., with a view to making sales from same. The samples should be shipped by parcel post, fully insured. Correspondence may be in English. All business will be done on cash-with-order basis.

26097.*—A man in Portugal is in the market for chemical products. Quotations should be made f. o. b. New York. Payment will be made against documents. Correspondence may be in English. References.

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BRITISH GOVERNMENT REGULATES PRICE OF FLAXSEED.

[Cablegram from Consul General Robert P. Skinner, London.]

Ministry of Munitions prohibits wholesale dealers from selling or delivering flaxseed for sowing at prices exceeding actual cost by more than 7s. 6d. per bag of 182 pounds plus actual cost of transport.

DATE FOR PAYMENT OF DRAFTS EXTENDED.

The War Trade Board promulgated, on December 16, 1917, a ruling authorizing the payment of drafts accepted on or before December 14, 1917, drawn on funds to the credit of a person who is an "Enemy" or "Ally of Enemy" or acting for or on behalf of an "Enemy" or "Ally of Enemy," or on which such a person appears as drawer or indorser when such drafts are presented for payment in the United States.

The Board has now determined to extend the above-mentioned date of acceptance from December 4, 1917, to December 17, 1917: and, for the convenience of those interested, the above-mentioned ruling of the Board is now reissued in full, as amended, by the extension of the date of acceptance. It is as follows:

Provision for Drawing on Funds to the Credit of an Enemy or Ally of Enemy.

The War Trade Board has authorized the payment of drafts accepted on or before December 17, 1917, drawn on funds to the credit of a person who is an "Enemy" or "Ally of Enemy," or acting for or on behalf of an "Enemy" or "Ally of Enemy," or on which such a person appears as drawer or indorser, when such drafts are pre-

when such drafts are collected for or on behalf of any person who is an "Enemy" or "Ally of Enemy" or person acting for or on behalf of an "Enemy" or "Ally of Enemy," the proceeds of collection shall be at once reported by the person making such collection to, and be held subject to the disposition of, the Alien Property Custodian.

Attention is called to the fact that no drafts can now be accepted, or transferred or dealt in before acceptance, which are drawn on funds to the credit of any person who is an "Enemy" or "Ally of Enemy" or acting for or on behalf of an "Enemy" or "Ally of Enemy," or drawn by or to the order of such person, or on which such person appears as indorser, unless a license is first obtained from the Bureau of Enemy Trade, Bond Building, Washington, D. C.

The War Trade Board has also authorized the payment of travelers' checks not exceeding \$100 in amount, on which there appears the indorsement of a person who is an "Enemy" or "Ally of Enemy" or acting for or on behalf of an "Enemy" or "Ally of Enemy," without obtaining a license therefor.

TRANSMISSION OF ELECTRIC POWER FROM SWEDEN TO DENMARK.

[Commercial Attaché Erwin W. Thompson, Copenhagen, Denmark, Nov. 17.]

The shortage of fuel of all kinds in Denmark has kept the large users of power anxiously looking toward Sweden for electric power which at times they have in abundance. The water power which is now developed in Sweden seems not to furnish any surplus power beyond the country's own needs during dry seasons, but during about half of the year there is generally a considerable exportable surplus. The villages in the northern part of Sjælland have been obtaining some small quantities of electricity by cable across the sound, and occasionally some of it has been used in Copenhagen. Now they are arranging to lay additional cables across the sound, with the intention of furnishing the street-car service of Copenhagen and Frederiksberg with a large amount of power. The difficulty in obtaining copper cables and electric transformers is delaying this work. It is expected that most of the power will come from the Laga Lakes and the Trollhättan Falls in Sweden.

TELEPHONE MERGER IN COLON AND PANAMA.

[Consul Julius D. Dreher, Colon, Panama, Dec. 4.]

It is announced that the Isthmian Telephone Co., at Colon, will cease to operate as a separate corporation on December 10, but will be merged into the Panama Telephone Co., which recently came under the control of the electric light and power syndicate which operates in Panama under the name of the Compañía Panameña de Fuerza y Luz and in Colon under the name of the Colon Electric & Ice Supply Co. The four important public utilities in Colon and Panama—electric light, power, ice, and telephones—are now under one general management controlled by an American syndicate.

A decree of October 16, 1917 provides for a school for farm fruit Nursery and Poultry Farm, Toledo.

The school will admit a man who must be taken from poor write. The course is to last no nursery and orchard work, far and wine, poultry raising, apic

The same decree provides for the school and directs that tl initiated at once: Soil mixtures of pots; packing; economic an extension of plantations of yerl ture of starch and alcohol.

The commission in charge o from the receipts of the establis to the installation and mainten from November, 1917, to June,

NEED OF PARCEL-POST 1

[Counsel Henry H.

One of the most urgent ne export trade with Paraguay i system with this country. As houses in Paraguay practically lishments import their goods c as many of the orders are sm much space the parcel post Paraguayan importer.

A good percentage of the l and France had with this coun developed through the parcel-p tain with Paraguay. Mercha turn much of their trade to tl gone to Europe if there were parcel-post orders from the l received by Ascuncion mercha Buenos Aires.

SUPPLEMENTS TO 1

Two supplements to Atlantic United States Coast and Geo covering the coast from Cape l a supplement to the third edit River to Cape Ann. These s November 23, 1917, and are de 76 and 78. Copies are distribu Coast and Geodetic Survey to 1

The United States Steamboat-Inspection Service, during the fiscal year ended June 30, 1917, inspected and certificated 6,984 vessels, with a total tonnage of 7,249,589, of which 6,776 were domestic vessels, with a total gross tonnage of 5,960,310; and 208 were foreign passenger steam vessels with a total gross tonnage of 1,289,279. Of the domestic vessels, there were 5,530 steam vessels, 665 motor vessels, 21 passenger barges, and 560 seagoing barges. There was a decrease of 365 in the total number of vessels inspected, and a decrease of 125,216 in the total gross tonnage of vessels inspected as compared with the preceding fiscal year. Letters of approval of designs of boilers, engines, and other operating machinery were granted to 51 steam vessels with a total gross tonnage of 1,328. There were inspected for the United States Government 82 hulls and 1,590 boilers. There were 2,827 reinspections of passenger and ferry steamers, an increase of 86 over the preceding fiscal year. The two traveling inspectors traveled over 17,666 miles, inspected 608 vessels, and found 512 deficiencies of various kinds.

Licenses were issued to 26,962 officers of all grades. There were examined for visual defects, 7,838 applicants for license, of whom 61 were found color blind or with other visual defects, and rejected. Certificates of service were issued to 13,304 able seamen, and 1,507 were rejected. Certificates of efficiency were issued to 11,619 lifeboat men, and 2,943 were rejected.

Steel plates for the construction of marine boilers to the number of 3,609 were inspected at the mills, and a large amount of other boiler material was inspected. There were examined and tested 202,583 new life preservers, of which 1,359 were rejected.

Decrease in Number of Lives Lost.

The total number of accidents, resulting in loss of life, was 257. The total number of lives lost was 592, of which 71 were passengers. Of the lives lost 210 were from suicide, accidental drowning, and other causes beyond the power of the service to prevent, leaving a loss of 382 lives as fairly chargeable to accidents, collisions, foundering, etc. There was a decrease of 684 in the number of lives lost as compared with the previous fiscal year. Passengers to the number of 317,095,171 were carried on vessels required by law to make a report of the number of passengers carried. Dividing this number by 71, the total number of passengers lost, 4,466,129 passengers were carried for each passenger lost; 1,193 lives were saved by means of life-saving appliances required by law.

The work of the service has been increased in several respects by war conditions; and, although the number of inspectors was materially increased during the fiscal year, the force of inspectors and clerks was not sufficient to meet the increased demands on the service without taxing it to the utmost, and the bureau recommends a substantial increase in the number of inspectors and clerks, particularly of clerks, in order that the work may be properly kept up. The bureau also recommends an increase in the salaries of all inspectors and clerks, due to higher salaries paid outside of the service for the same character of work and the increased cost of living.

On account of scarcity of dwellings in Denmark it has been necessary for the Government to take a great many steps toward providing houseroom for the poor and for preventing the well-to-do people from occupying too much space. In the outskirts of Copenhagen a number of cheap barracks have been built for housing some of the poorer class who could find no other homes. Shortage of all kinds of building materials, together with other difficulties, has prevented the usual expansion of building operations for the past year or two.

During this year there has been some agitation on the subject of foreigners in the country, and it has been claimed that foreigners have continued to come to Denmark and occupy house and hotel room to such an extent that the natives have suffered. A proposition is before Parliament to amend the law of 1875 which empowered the Government in its discretion to expel foreigners who had not lived in the country for two years. It is now proposed to shorten this period because of war conditions. The original law was probably intended to apply to persons who might be undesirable from a political standpoint. Conditions of life are now such that it may become necessary to consider the law from a standpoint of house room and food.

The building commission of the city of Copenhagen ordered a census of foreigners, which was begun in July of this year. This census showed that since August 1, 1914, 5,427 foreigners have been registered in the two adjacent cities of Copenhagen and Frederiksberg. Of this number 402 were Norwegians, 2,707 Swedes, 810 Germans, 188 Austrians, and 710 Russians. Divided according to their pursuits, there were 80 capitalists, 130 government officials, 686 belonging to the so-called liberal professions, 32 manufacturers, and 2,679 laborers (mostly Swedes). More than half of these foreigners lived in hotels and boarding houses, but 706 apartments also were occupied by foreigners.

GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS FOR SALE.

The following were among the publications received in stock for sale by the Superintendent of Documents at Washington during the week ended December 15, 1917:

Commercial Laws of Switzerland (Special Agents Series 150).—Covers constitution, codes and principal commercial laws including bankruptcy proceedings, bills of exchange, brokerage agreements, etc. Price, 10 cents.

Effects of Moisture on the Spontaneous Heating of Stored Coal (Mines Bureau Technical Paper 172).—Gives results of experiments on spontaneous heating, etc., on stored coal as affected by moisture. Price, 5 cents.

Saving Fuel in Heating a House (Mines Bureau Technical Paper 97, reprint).—A practical and timely work on fuel, fuels used for heating residences, methods of heating residences, factors governing consumption, and general suggestions for the firing of anthracite and bituminous coal and wood, with general deductions. Price, 5 cents.

The Soy Bean, with Special Reference to Its Utilization for Oil Cake, and other products (Agriculture Department Bulletin 439, reprint).—Covers soy beans in Manchuria, Europe, and United States, soy bean as food, etc. Price, 5 cents.

The first number of a new of Journal of Industries, was issue is published by authority of th and has been established in re Scientific and Technical Comm that in view of the urgent nec natural resources of South Af prepared embodying the existin in order to afford publicity to t be published. Some preliminar of the publication. In an intro

The Government recognized that if iliary bodies which had been called value the widest possible publicity r information obtained, and the operat The occasion may not perhaps be co of a journal of this character. Apar ing place throughout the world to t of national resources and the desire c more industries—an ambition which appearance of this journal synchron relatively active industrial expansion

One of the important articles final report of the Dominions pointed by the Imperial Gove Africa the following year. The Union are discussed. Another and industries, outlines the beg trial expansion. Among the otl turing industries, mineral prod of industries, industrial alcohol production.

COFFEE EXPORTAT

[Consul Benjamin F

Official statistics of Costa Ric (August, 1916–April, 1917) s pounds gross—10,089,630 pounds ficiado or fully milled coffee 24 2,295,415 pounds of the Pergan tities being respectively 91.51 pe The United States took 53.16 p Kingdom 40.14 per cent, and Some coffee was sent to France, ince of San Jose supplied 46.34 per cent, Cartago 13.22 per cen estimated value of the coffee expa mal exchange the colon is worth

The 1917–18 crop is placed at not far enough advanced to ma just beginning in the San Jose c

[COMMERCE REPORTS for Dec. 13, 19 exports for the 10 seasons from 1906

Scientific work of unusual volume and interest is described in the annual report of the Director of the Bureau of Standards, just issued. The work ranges from the testing of clinical thermometers to the publication of national electrical and gas codes. Since the war began all branches of this scientific bureau have been conducting researches on technical problems of military application. The regular work, however, has not been overlooked. In fact, the variety and importance of the results obtained during the year in its scientific and technical researches are of unusual interest.

The standardization work has comprised the making of 155,000 tests of weights, measures, measuring instruments, and materials; the promulgation of a new standard screen scale for unifying the sizes of industrial sieves; the new gage standards laboratory for testing munitions gages; investigation of the accuracy of leather measuring instruments; standardizing blood-counting apparatus, including new specifications based on researches on the errors of such apparatus; the standardization of master scales in 21 States and of the master scales of the American Railway Association; extension of the work on altitude-measuring instruments to include all varieties of aviation instruments; and a large number of special researches in physics of materials.

Standardization in Various Lines.

The report describes much interesting work on standards for electrical measurements; radio researches; practical tests of the Bureau's radio fog-signaling system; radio direction finder; magnetic system of testing steels to ascertain quality for tool making, rail making, ball bearings, and the like; standardization of radium and radio-active preparations, including radium luminous paints for watch dials, and the dials of aviation instruments; inauguration of work on X-ray standardization; improved methods of light measurement; standard practice codes issued as national standards for electric service and for gas service; work on standards for street lighting service, and on standards for telephone service; investigation of gas-mantle conditions in the leading cities; and the important work of safeguarding underground structures from the damage caused by stray electric currents.

The optical work of the Bureau is of special interest and includes the precise measurement of wave lengths of various colors for use as standards in optical work, red and infra-red photography as applied to the photography of the spectra of laboratory materials, and of the stars and the sun; optical methods of finding impurities in materials; sugar determination by optical means; determination of sugar content of molasses; industrial standards of color for certain industrial materials; standardization of optical apparatus, such as camera lenses, field glasses, range finders, and similar equipment; and analysis of radiation with respect to energy distribution.

Chemical Research—Technologic Papers.

The chemical work of the Bureau included the development of new methods of analyzing steel and other materials; study of platinum purity; cooperation upon military researches involving chemistry, such as the preparation of special gases, combustion gas detec-

... and chemical research
and quantity for the Government.
The Bureau's technological
searches into the special tech-
products, lime, stucco, paint
materials, such as paper, etc.
The results are published in
technologic papers issued du-
The regular growth of the
account of war work has re-
laboratories and an increase in
To all interested in the appli-
warfare, the annual report of
particular interest.

ITALIAN ASSOCIATION FOR [Vice Consul Quincy]

Il Sole, published at Milan, of
of an association for the purchas-
ing committee, it states, met at
Commendatore Gennaro Maffettor.
ciation in Rome was fixed at the
society is installed. It has been
without delay the admission of as-
purchases, finances, insurance, freigh-
given by **Il Sole** are:

About 100 of the principal national tax
belong to the association, and new appli-
Since the first of September the firms that
send in their orders, and the directing com-
the purchases. On September 18 these firm
assignments of hides from China and Montevideo.
covered for about 60,000 hides from China and
22,000 hides from Montevideo, principally
assignments were announced of 25,000 more
soles. Within a few days will be announce-
tional hides from China, 20,000 from Montevideo.

Orders Received During First Month.

The orders received by the association du-
amount to more than 250,000 hides. Four-fifth
ered by the purchase and assignment of about
Given the continual increase in the number
that the orders will reach greater amounts in
probable that the purchases will be delayed, the
the chartering of vessels becomes always more
the tonnage is absorbed by the transportation of
America and Australia.

HIGH PRICE PAID FOR PORT STEAMER. [Consul William Dawson, Montevideo, U. S.]

According to newspaper reports, confirm-
firm of Viuda de A. F. Braga has sold for
(\$51,700) the Uruguayan steamer *Tigre*. It
chased by Messrs. Doderio Hermanos, who, it
to Europe.
The *Tigre* was built in England in 1902, is
and 40 net tons, and has been engaged in port

The shortage of tin plate during the packing season that has just passed resulted in considerable attention being given to the tin-plate industry. There was particular interest in the amount of this material used for various purposes. The Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce has compiled figures showing the amount of tin plate required to pack the different foodstuffs that are processed in hermetically sealed cans, the compilation being based on statistics of the domestic canning and preserving industry in 1914, recently published by the Bureau of the Census. In computing the amount of tin plate necessary to manufacture the various sizes of packers' cans, figures furnished by the National Cannery Association were utilized.

The computation shows that 5,614,813 base boxes of tin plate were required in 1914 for the packing of foodstuffs in hermetically sealed cans, not including the salmon pack of Alaska or the pineapple pack of Hawaii. As the domestic production of coke tin plate during 1914 is given by the Census Bureau as approximately 18,558,925 base boxes, it will be seen that something less than one-third of the total domestic production of coke tin plate was used for the packing of foodstuffs in hermetically sealed containers, leaving more than two-thirds of the production for containers for dry food products, non-food products, for other uses, and for the Hawaiian and Alaskan packs.

Output of Cases and Tin Plate Required.

The following table shows, first, the domestic output of standard cases of various foodstuffs in 1914, and, second, the minimum amount of tin plate required for the cases:

Foodstuffs.	Number of cases.	Base boxes of tin plate required for pack.	Foodstuffs.	Number of cases.	Base boxes of tin plate required for pack.
Tomatoes.....	16,200,302	1,428,867	Hominy.....	686,100	60,514
Corn.....	9,919,950	629,718	Asparagus.....	637,601	40,475
Beans.....	8,994,302	570,958	Sweet potatoes.....	454,415	40,090
Peas.....	8,826,284	569,293	Shrimp.....	459,377	39,322
Soups.....	4,886,098	423,097	Tuna.....	437,090	36,665
Sardines.....	5,012,199	363,669	Spinach.....	391,790	34,335
Peaches.....	3,407,906	300,577	Cherries.....	543,213	34,433
Apples.....	1,514,939	133,618	Beets.....	251,632	22,194
Salmon.....	1,513,300	131,040	Miscellaneous canned fish...	235,313	20,420
Kraut.....	1,184,219	104,448	Plums.....	288,326	18,303
Pears.....	1,062,762	93,736	Succotash.....	270,077	17,144
Apricots.....	1,051,816	92,770	Clams.....	185,186	16,056
Berries.....	1,333,449	84,647	Miscellaneous canned fruits.	132,026	8,370
Oysters.....	941,639	81,798	Pineapples.....	94,140	8,303
Miscellaneous canned veg-			Figs.....	20,605	1,617
etables.....	900,483	79,423			
Pumpkin.....	789,368	69,610	Total.....	73,382,058	5,614,813
Tomato pulp.....	752,151	67,324			

Sale of Aguascalientes Electric Light and Tramway System.

Consul G. K. Donald reports from Aguascalientes, Mexico, that the electric light plant and street car system of Aguascalientes will be sold at public auction on December 22. The starting bid must be 150,000 pesos (\$75,000).

The tramway lines have an extension of 17,200 meters and there is also a short mule car line of 1,000 meters.

Cape Province has numerous firms which manufacture boots and shoes. Many of these are engaged in the production of high-class footwear, though, as a rule, the better class of footwear that is popular in this country, is obtained from overseas. The foreign producer, with his highly specialized factories, is able, with the aid of the importing merchant, to flood the market here with enormous quantities of boots and shoes, either made for the South African trade, or forming a part of his surplus output. The result is that the South African producer is unable to command a sufficient market to warrant extensions of his plant to meet large calls which may be made by the wholesaler. He must content himself with producing high-grade footwear in small quantities for the retailer.

Purchases from the United States.

Large quantities of boots and shoes are being received from the United States, partly as a result of the impossibility of obtaining adequate supplies elsewhere. A firm, which desires to place such goods on this market, probably will find that the best method to pursue for the proper extension of trade is to make such an arrangement as manufacturers in the United States generally insist upon—that is, to place the trade in the hands of a firm of manufacturers' agents, either for the separate Provinces or for the entire Union. In the latter case the agent either personally visits all sections of the country, or has numerous travelers canvassing the communities. In the former case, when a local firm accepts an agency for a particular district, other agencies should be established so that the manufacturer will be represented throughout South Africa. Many manufacturers' agents in Cape Town maintain representation in other important centers.

Customarily a manufacturer's agent, when receiving orders from customers, places them by cable with the American firm, and the goods are shipped directly to the purchaser. Payment for the goods in such cases is arranged between the manufacturer and agent when completing the contract. At present, as a result of the war, manufacturers in the United States and other countries are insisting largely upon all business being conducted on a cash basis.

Shipping and Commission Houses.

A considerable amount of business with this country is done through shipping and commission houses, the manufacturer usually receiving cash at time of shipment and the shipping houses extending credit to the purchasers. For such credit an exchange is charged amounting to something more than 6 per cent interest per annum; in fact, it is usually 2½ per cent for draft at 90 days. American shippers usually limit terms of credit to draft at 90 days' sight. Many firms in this country have a London house through which payments are remitted in such cases.

Manufacturers' agents in South Africa usually charge a commission of 5 or 10 per cent on the value of all goods disposed of by their efforts. In this connection, American firms placing their products on this market through the medium of an agent should bear in

representative commissions should always be paid the agents for goods sold in this country so long as a contract with the agent is in operation, whether the agent places the order or whether a consumer receives goods without the knowledge of the agent. Some agents expect the manufacturer to assist to a certain extent in advertising goods, though as a general rule the representative assumes the expense of all advertising. Such matters are usually agreed upon beforehand.

Tariff Rates and Shipping Routes.

Boots and shoes are classified under No. 52 of the South African import tariff, and pay an import duty of 20 per cent ad valorem, with a minimum duty of 18 cents per pair of men's, 12 cents per pair of women's, and 6 cents per pair of children's boots and shoes. A rebate of 3 per cent ad valorem is granted on all such goods manufactured in the United Kingdom or reciprocating British colonies. The term "South Africa," for customs purposes, is to be taken to mean that part of South Africa south of the Zambezi River.

Imports of American goods previous to the outbreak of the war were usually made via England, though at present a large volume of merchandise is being imported directly from the United States. By the direct route the goods are received at an earlier date, and the possibility of loss en route is greatly reduced. Whenever possible it is preferable to quote prices c. i. f. port of landing, otherwise f. o. b. vessel at port of shipment. Local merchants realize that at present it is impossible in many instances to quote prices c. i. f.

The present retail prices of shoes in South Africa are much higher than the prewar prices, and average from \$7.50 to \$11.50 per pair.

[Lists of importers of boots and shoes and of manufacturers' agents in Cape Town may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 94888.]

[Consul John P. Bray, Johannesburg, Sept. 20.]

English Manufacturers in Strong Position.

The chief source of the supply of both men's and women's shoes in the Johannesburg district is the United Kingdom, whose manufacturers have obtained a very strong foothold here. Previous to the war a considerable proportion of the imports of the finer grades of women's shoes came from Austria, and the styles, quality, and price are said to have met with favor. Although American shoes are sold to some extent, the quantity is small in comparison with the importance of the industry in the United States. While the sale of men's shoes has encountered some prejudice, this has been due chiefly to the failure of American manufacturers to supply shoes which meet the taste of the local buyer, but any unpopularity that may have existed is disappearing as a result of the better class of shoe that is being imported.

Women's shoes of American manufacture are most favorably received in this market, and have a decided tendency to become more popular. This is true especially of shoes worn by the nonworking class, which, although not constituting such a large proportion of the population as in Europe and the United States, demands a high-grade shoe for morning shopping and afternoon social affairs. To this class the styles and qualities of the American shoes that are

an exclusive agency to some established firm. The representative should be prepared to advertise the goods, and in that way clearly put before the buying public an article for which there is a comparatively large demand. In any case the firm should be prepared to encounter strong competition on the part of houses which already are established.

[A list of boot and shoe merchants in the Johannesburg district may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 95158. An article on the South African output of footwear was published in COMMERCE REPORTS for July 20, 1917.]

SPECIAL REPORTS COMPILED BY THE BUREAU.

The following special reports have recently been compiled in the Research Division of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce: Importation of explosives into Costa Rica, 1915; importation of explosives into Salvador, 1915 and 1916; exports from Dutch East Indies of quinine bark and quinine, 1915; exports of Peruvian bark from Peru, 1916; and imports of iron and steel sheets and plates into 33 foreign countries, 1913.

These reports may be examined by making application to the Bureau.

YIELD OF FALL CROP OF POTATOES IN BERMUDA.

[Vice Consul Stillman W. Eells, Hamilton, Dec. 4.]

It is estimated that the Triumph or fall crop of potatoes which will be reaped in Bermuda during the latter part of December and in January will be 82,500 bushels. This is less by 8,000 bushels than the fall crop of 1916, in spite of the fact that more acreage was planted to potatoes this year. The reason given for this by the Director of Agriculture is that "the earlier plantings have been affected by unfavorable seasons and will not produce a normal crop. The fields planted later give promise of good yields."

AUTOMOBILE TIRE REGULATION IN GOLD COAST.

[Consul W. J. Yerby, Dakar, Senegal, Nov. 20.]

The following notice appeared in the Government Gazette, of Accra, Gold Coast, of October 6, 1917:

The public are hereby notified that it is not the intention of the governor to permit the use on thoroughfares after April 30, 1918, of motor cars or carriages having any wheel fitted with twin tires or more than one tire or having twin wheels or more than one wheel on any one axle.

Any permit which has been issued to use any such motor car or carriage shall cease to be in force after that date.

Consul General at Lima Visits United States.

Consul General H. H. Handley, stationed at Callao-Lima, Peru, is now on leave of absence in Washington, and would be glad to confer with American exporting interests in regard to Peruvian matters. Consul General Handley's address is 1336 New Hampshire Avenue NW., Washington, D. C.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the **Bureau** and its **district and cooperative offices**. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and state **opportunity number**. The **Bureau** does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases. Symbols: * Reported by American consular officers; † Reported by commercial attachés and commercial agents; ‡ Direct inquiries received by the Bureau.

In considering the following "opportunities" special regard should be had to the laws and regulations governing export licenses and trading with the enemy.

Boxes-----	26106	Oils-----	26105
Cotton and silk goods-----	26106	Paper-----	26102, 26106
Dyes-----	26100	Ropes-----	26106
Electrical machinery and apparatus-----	26098	Saccharin-----	26104
General representation-----	26101	Safes-----	26098
Hardware-----	26106	Saw, cork, and peat dust-----	26106
Hosiery-----	26106	Silver cans-----	26099
Machinery-----	26103	Wadding-----	26106
Nails-----	26106	Wire-----	26106

26098.*—A firm in Italy desires to secure an agency for the sale of electrical supplies and all kinds of apparatus for electric power, lighting, and heating plants; also safes of all kinds. The safes should be fire and burglar proof. Diagrams of the kind of safes desired may be examined at the Bureau or its District Offices. (Refer to file No. 94815.) Correspondence should be in French or Italian. References.

26099.*—A company in India wishes to purchase silver (roving) cans made of vulcanized fiber. The cans should be sent in unmade shape, but all parts ready for putting together. The cans are usually oval in shape with kicking bands of 4½ inches. The sizes range from 36 by 10 by 7 inches to 36 by 14 by 12 inches. Correspondence may be in English. Reference.

26100.*—A firm in China desires to secure an agency for the sale of dyes. Cash will be paid, if necessary. The firm will also make outright purchases. Correspondence may be in English. References.

26101.*—A firm of commission merchants in Brazil desires to be placed in communication with American manufacturers and exporters with a view to selling their goods on a commission basis. No particular line is mentioned. Quotations should be made f. o. b. New York. Correspondence should be in Portuguese and Spanish. Reference.

26102.*—The proprietor of fine art litho works in India desires to purchase one-sided coated paper 25 by 38 inches, weighing 97 pounds to a ream of 500 sheets; natural paper 25 by 38 inches weighing 95 pounds to a ream of 500 sheets; and packing paper similar to samples which may be examined at the Bureau or its District Offices. (Refer to file No. 94305.) Quotations should be made f. o. b. New York. Payment will be made by cash or credit terms. The paper should be sealed in ream packages and packed in strong iron-strapped, wooden boxes. Correspondence may be in English.

26103.*—A planter in the British West Indies wishes to buy sugar machinery and machinery for extracting the oil from cocoa beans and for pulverizing the beans. Correspondence may be in English.

26104.*—A firm in Scotland is in the market for 550-strength saccharin in sealed boxes. At least 10 pounds per month would be required. The goods should be sent by parcel post. References.

26105.*—An agency is desired by a firm in Norway for the sale of lubricating oils. Quotations should be made f. o. b. New York. Payment will be made by cash against documents. Correspondence may be in English. References.

26106.*—A firm in the Canary Islands wishes to secure an agency for the sale of cotton and silk goods, wire nails, wire in colls, ropes, hosiery, hardware, sawdust, peatdust, wadding for packing bananas, wooden boxes for packing tomatoes, corkdust, silk paper, and brown paper. Quotations should be made f. o. b. New York. Payment will be made by cash or credit terms. Correspondence may be in English. References.



No. 297 Washington, D

Export prices for Dutch cheese...
Continuation of Mexican tariff
exemptions...
American steamer plying on
Yangtze River...
German buyers in the Argentine h
market...
Tunnel to be built under Japan
strait...
Increased American shipping
Singapore...
Extending American trade in Ind
Giants for industrial purposes
Madras Presidency...
Excellent wine crop in Greece...
Lumber interests in Norway co
bining...

EXPORT PR

A cablegram from the A
land, dated December 18, :
cheese fixed after Decemb
pounds to 153 s.; edam, :
prices export.

CONTINUATION OF

The American consul ge
telegram of December 17,
motor cars and trucks has
admission of lard, rice, p
same date has also been a
have been made in the exp
the import duties on cotton

[The free admission until D
and other vehicles specified in
COMMERCE REPORTS of July 17,
stuffs until the same date was
tions are apparently continued

AMERICAN STEAMER

[Consul George C.

The steamship *Meitan*, c
York as a Yangtze River
river beyond Chungking.
merchant vessel to ply on
Chi, a Chinese merchant
merchandise and passenger
years. Foreign gunboats o
trips beyond Chungking.

According to an article in the Buenos Aires Herald of October 10, 1917, entitled "Three countries want hides," at a moment when British and American hide buyers are seeking Argentine hides they find the market boosted to extraordinary prices by a very keen and active competition on the part of German buyers, who are taking all the dry cattle hides they can find, offering higher prices than their enemy competitors.

The local hide market had been practically dead for several months, and there was an absolute absence of buying interest until North American houses began placing orders preparatory to making their bids for Government requirements. The American houses have been trying to buy up all suitable hides at present prices so that they would have a cost basis on which to make their bids.

Prohibition Removed by British Government.

About the time the North Americans began buying, the British Government relaxed the prohibition against imports of tanned leather that was declared in February. Brokers immediately began buying for the account of the British Government, and this competition between British and American buyers naturally forced prices up rapidly. Within the last week a large German black-listed commission house of this city has sent its buyers into the market, and their activity would indicate that they have orders to buy everything offered.

As a result of this enemy competition, the prices of dry hides, which are particularly interesting the Germans, has risen from 17 pesos for 10 kilos, to 19 pesos and higher, an increase of 12 per cent within a few days, which is all the more remarkable in view of the absolute stagnation of business during the last few months.

Increase in Price of Salted Hides.

The keen competition by American and British buyers for salted hides has increased the price of this class 10 per cent in the last five days. Frigorifico salted hides were selling yesterday at \$63 gold a hundred kilos.

The most interesting feature of this German buying is that the German buyers insist that they are buying for the account of the German Government preparatory to the cessation of hostilities.

[An article on the Argentine trade in hides was published in COMMERCE REPORTS for Mar. 26, 1917.]

TUNNEL TO BE BUILT UNDER JAPANESE STRAIT.

[Consul General George H. Seidmore, Yokohama, Oct. 31.]

The Japan Chronicle reports that influential citizens of Fukuoka, Kiushu, have undertaken a plan for the establishment of a company with \$7,228,250 capital for the purpose of making a railway tunnel under the Mogi Straits. The tunnel will start at Shimonoseki and end at Dairi, Fukuoka Prefecture, and it will be connected with the railway trunk line of Kiushu. The total length is put at 17,700 feet, of which 4,000 feet will be beneath the sea. Five years will be required to complete the whole project.

Much satisfaction is manifested by Americans throughout the Far East and particularly in Singapore over the increase in the number of American vessels seen in this part of the world. Shipping figures at this port show that during the three years 1912, 1913, and 1914 only one American vessel of 724 tons entered at Singapore, this entry being in 1913.

The scarcity of British shipping and high freight rates, however, have brought about a great change in the situation, the year 1915 showing 17 American ships entered, of an aggregate net tonnage of 39,956; 1916 showing an increase to 20 ships entered with a total net tonnage of 43,500; while the period January to October, 1917, or 10 months only, shows 19 vessels entered, of a total tonnage of 38,421.

Of the 20 vessels entered during the year 1916, 8, or approximately 60 per cent of the total tonnage, were of United States registry, while 6 vessels were owned by American citizens abroad and carrying the American flag but not having United States registry, and 6 vessels having registry in the Philippine Islands, the latter being small vessels, for the most part under 1,000 tons. Of the 19 vessels entered during the first 10 months of 1917, 9 ships of 23,181 tons were of United States registry, 6 owned by American citizens resident abroad, and 4 vessels of Philippine registry.

Direct Export Trade to United States—Shipments of Rubber and Tin.

The direct export trade from Singapore to the United States is apparently proving attractive to the shipping companies, since two American companies, the Waterhouse Steamship Line, of Seattle, and the Pacific Mail Steamship Co., of San Francisco, have each recently established a Singapore-Pacific monthly service.

Cargo from Singapore for direct shipment to the United States has been very attractive to shipping agents, especially crude rubber and refined tin, both being very valuable in proportion to bulk, and as a result paying maximum freight rates. Some idea of the aggregate freights paid on shipments of rubber alone from Singapore to the United States can be gathered from the fact that approximately 38,370 long tons were exported to the United States during the first seven months of the present year at rates ranging from \$70 to \$95 gold per ton. Tin cargo is much sought after, but does not command as high rates as rubber for the reason that masters of vessels are always anxious to secure it as cargo, as there is probably none better as ballast owing to its great weight and small bulk. In addition to the rubber shipments mentioned above, there were shipped to the United States during the seven months' period something over 35,000 tons of other cargo, including over 8,000 tons of refined tin, making a total of over 73,000 long tons of cargo from Singapore to the United States in seven months.

"The Myxosporidia of the Beaufort, N. C., Region: A Systematic and Biological Study," has been published as Document No. 855 of the United States Bureau of Fisheries. The myxosporidia are chiefly parasites of fishes. The book is illustrated by plates. Copies may be obtained at 10 cents each from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C.

The number of replies received by a prominent local firm in whose behalf several "Trade Opportunities" were forwarded by the Calcutta consulate general during the past four or five months indicates the energy and enterprise with which American exporters are attempting to extend their foreign trade, but the nature of these same replies shows a lack of knowledge of the proper methods to obtain a share in the trade here.

Among 50 or more replies received by the Calcutta firm referred to but one or two were sufficiently full and explicit in statement of prices to enable the prospective buyer to determine the cost of the goods laid down in Calcutta. While the difficulty of quoting c. i. f. prices at the present time is appreciated, American exporters are nevertheless urged to give at least approximate freight and insurance rates when quoting. It would appear quite feasible to name c. i. f. prices on the basis of freight and insurance rates at the date of quoting, subject to any increase or decrease in these rates; but if this is impossible, it is of the utmost importance that the weight of the goods and the size of the packages should be given, otherwise the importer has little information on which to base his cost price. Many quotations received by the Calcutta firm were for goods at the factory. It is obvious that the Calcutta firm has no knowledge of the cost of rail freight from factory to the American seaboard.

Reasonable Credit on Trial Orders.

In almost every instance the Calcutta house was asked to open credits in New York before the goods were shipped, and the firm's representative very reasonably suggested that if the American exporter is not willing to trust him to pay for his goods on delivery, he sees no reason why he should be expected to pay in advance for goods which he has never seen. In other words, there is just as much reason why the Calcutta importer should not trust the American exporter (who is unknown to him) to ship him goods as ordered and according to sample, as that the American exporter should refuse reasonable credit and permission to the purchaser to see that the goods (at least those sent on the first trial order) are as represented before paying for them.

In the present case the Calcutta house submitted first-class bank references; and with these available it seems reasonable that the American exporter should be willing to ship goods ordered and allow the importer to pay cash on delivery of the goods here. This, of course, refers to trial orders when establishing business relations. Further orders, if these relations are found to be mutually satisfactory, could be placed on the basis of credit terms satisfactory to both parties. Attention is called to these very manifest failures of American exporters to grasp the situation thoroughly. A very large amount of business is lost through these mistaken methods.

Useful Rules to Follow.

The following may be accepted as useful rules to be followed in opening up trade here with Calcutta importers:

The total import trade of Russia over the European frontiers and with Finland for the first half of 1914, 1915, 1916, and 1917 was as follows: 1914—\$365,709,000; 1915—\$79,401,000; 1916—\$161,482,000; 1917—\$199,699,000. The marked increase in the value of imports in the 1917 period was due partly to higher prices, which were counterbalanced, however, by falling exchange rates, the conversion factors for the ruble being 51.5 cents (the normal rate) for the first half of 1914, 43.15 cents for the first half of 1915, 31.55 cents for the first half of 1916, and 23.4 cents for the first half of 1917. Exports during the first half of 1917 amounted to \$26,017,000, as against \$53,246,000, \$40,634,000, and \$348,959,000 in the corresponding periods of 1916, 1915, and the normal year 1914, respectively.

Trade Routes.

The value of the goods received into European Russia and sent from European Russia by the European and the Black Sea-Caucasus frontiers, by way of Asiatic Russia and Finland, and in the trade with Finland is shown in the following table for the first half of 1914, 1915, 1916, and 1917:

Items.	Jan. 1-June 30—			
	1914	1915	1916	1917
IMPORTS.				
European frontiers.....	\$338,900,000	\$42,047,000	\$98,378,000	\$127,137,000
Through Asiatic Russia.....				16,213,000
Black Sea—Caucasus frontiers.....	9,896,000	173,000	552,000	133,000
Through Finland.....	2,415,000	22,245,000	22,814,000	24,448,000
From Finland.....	14,498,000	14,936,000	29,738,000	21,768,000
Total imports.....	365,709,000	79,401,000	161,482,000	199,699,000
EXPORTS.				
European frontiers.....	289,671,000	13,801,000	21,695,000	6,868,000
Black Sea—Caucasus frontiers.....	47,140,000			
Through Finland.....		2,406,000	3,976,000	2,446,000
To Finland.....	12,148,000	24,427,000	27,575,000	16,708,000
Total exports.....	348,959,000	40,634,000	53,246,000	26,017,000

The amounts received and dispatched "through Finland" represent foreign products entering European Russia via Finland or Russian goods exported via Finland to other countries, of which the foreign origin or destination was declared. The merchandise noted as entering from and proceeding to Finland represents the actual exchange of Russian and Finnish products and also goods coming from or going to foreign countries, whose source and ultimate destination were not declared. The imports from foreign countries by way of Finland should be credited chiefly to Sweden, the United Kingdom, and the United States. It is of interest to note that imports from Germany via Finland, which amounted to only \$357,000 in the first half of 1914, a normal period, increased to \$2,484,000 in the first half of 1915, fell to \$656,000 in the first half of 1916, and rose again to \$1,244,000 in the first half of the current year. This year for the first time the value of goods received into European Russia through Asiatic Russia and registered at the customhouses on the European frontier is indicated separately in the statistics.

The United Kingdom sent 3 per cent of the imports into Europe, but in the export trade the share was 64 per cent, while the United Kingdom sent 64 per cent. The following table shows the share of European Russia, by 1914, 1915, 1916, and 1917:

Countries.

Imports from—
United Kingdom
United States
France
Finland
Sweden
Japan
China
Norway
Switzerland
Germany
All other countries

Total imports

Exports to—
Finland
United Kingdom
Sweden
France
United States
Germany
All other countries

Total exports

Principal Imports and Their Sources

From the Russian statistics it is seen that the most important articles receive from France, for example, three-fifths of their value are included in the item "all other goods," mentioned of which the imports were automobiles (\$3,893,000, as compared with \$340,000 in the United Kingdom, the principal source, in 1907, 907,000, as against \$5,000 in 1906), chemicals (\$8,464,000, as against \$654,000 in 1906), calicoes (\$3,122,000, as against \$446,000 in 1906), cal and pharmaceutical products (\$1,000,000, as against the first half of 1916); "all other goods," make up the total. The articles that include small quantities of colors and dyes, scientific instruments, goods, and pencils.

Purchases from United States.

Important in the list of im following: Copper, \$3.299,000 in the first half of 1917; aut

manufactures, \$850,000, and \$1,594,000; and passenger automobiles, \$1,357,000, and \$1,313,000. More than half of the imports from the United States are included in "all other articles." Moreover, goods consigned to the Government are not shown in the Russian statistics. More complete data of American sales to Russia can, therefore, be obtained from the American export figures, which are as follows for the principal articles sent to European Russia during the first six months of 1916 and 1917:

Articles.	Jan. 1-June 30, 1916.	Jan. 1-June 30, 1917.	Articles.	Jan. 1-June 30, 1916.	Jan. 1-June 30, 1917.
Agricultural implements..	\$187,641	\$2,527,139	Iron and steel, and manu- factures of—Continued.		
Aluminum, and manufac- tures of.....	1,217,941	2,421,362	Machinery—		
Automobiles:			Metal-working.....	\$5,769,299	\$2,541,495
Commercial.....	2,857,308	819,325	Typewriting.....	548,948	104,589
Passenger.....	843,843	207,245	All other.....	2,333,547	1,995,626
Brass, and manufactures of:			Rails, steel.....	1,204,999	2,347,498
Bars, plates, sheets, etc.....	2,505	1,767,517	Railway-track mate- rial.....	152,609	409,098
Manufactures.....	48,894	814,117	Tools.....	672,436	882,121
Cars for steam railways.....	3,620,089	677,315	Wire.....		
Chemicals.....	3,065,105	1,439,265	Barbed.....	4,122,414	580,135
Copper, refined: Ingots, bars, etc.....		11,004,594	All other.....	172,552	139,775
Cotton.....	4,989,706	167,889	All other.....	2,507,133	2,715,749
Electrical apparatus, ma- chinery, etc.....	839,005	862,256	Leather, and manu- factures of:		
Explosives:			Boots and shoes, men's.....	5,514,923	508,739
Cartridges.....	192,950	19,078,296	Leather, sole.....	799,597	2,397,418
Gunpowder.....	7,893,279	27,197,724	Leather, upper, kid.....	315,101	874,989
All other.....	12,280,564	73,197,331	Nickel, nickel oxide, and matte.....	1,164,500	64,769
Fibers, manufactures of.....	305,187	954,793	Tires, automobile.....	868,296	67,969
Instruments, optical.....	26,640	169,054	Wool, manufactures of:		
Iron and steel, and manu- factures of:			Wearing apparel.....	3,207,074	5,639
Engines, steam.....	894,413	1,441,560	All other.....	7,320,941	14,539
Firearms.....	1,071,221	34,677,882	Zinc spelter, in pigs, etc.....	618,377	315,690
			All other articles.....	5,398,979	2,622,215
			Total.....	82,964,015	202,046,221

Principal Exports and Their Destinations.

Flax represented 75 per cent of the exports from European Russia to the United Kingdom in the first half of 1917, over 40 per cent of the exports to France, and over 50 per cent of the exports to Sweden. The other large item in the shipments to France was wheat, which represented 20 per cent of the total. Practically all of the small shipments to the United States consisted of hides and leather.

CONSTRUCTION WORK.

ENGLAND.

[Consul J. S. Armstrong, jr., Bristol, Nov. 22.]

Cold Storage at Avonmouth.

In July, 1914, the Bristol Docks Committee was authorized to proceed with the construction of warehouse and cold-storage accommodations at Avonmouth Docks, at an estimated cost of £100,000 (\$486,650), but after the foundations had been laid further progress was stopped by the war and the difficulties that arose in consequence, including objections by the Treasury to further borrowings and difficulty in obtaining adequate materials and labor.

Food has recently pressed for
has promised to support the
to the Treasury for autho

It is proposed to proceed with
to the greatly increased use
need for accommodations.

American firms interested
tion should communicate with
ager, Bristol Docks, Queen's
National Shipyard at Portbury, 1

It has just been announced
Portbury, near Bristol, has
three national shipyards which
Government.

Preliminary work has been
bury for some time.

The other two national shipyards
stow and Beachley. It is in
the first year for the laying
months, and that the first vessel
vember of next year.

[Consul Hunt]

The Proposed Belfast Harbor Development

The Belfast News-Letter
that an application was introduced
ensuing session by the Belfast
bring in a bill and to pass a
improving the harbor at Belfast.

The proposals are very costly
out in its entirety an expenditure
would, it is stated, be involved
in the cost of labor and materials
estimate that might be given.

The principal feature of
of a series of docks. An important
lating to the deepening and
otherwise, of the channel for
construction of wharves, jetties
the requirements of future
try, the construction of a new

[Clippings of the published notice
of Foreign and Domestic Commerce
95524.]

TWO NEW CANNERIES

According to information
Department of Commerce,
is planning to erect two canneries
with a capacity of 30,000 cases
a cold-storage plant for supplies

The quantity of cotton seed received at mills in the United States from August 1 to November 30, 1917, was 2,658,978 tons. The quantity of seed crushed during that period was 1,531,351, and the quantity on hand November 30 at the mills was 1,161,554 tons. These figures have been compiled and issued as a preliminary report by the United States Bureau of the Census, which also makes the following statement of the quantities of cottonseed products manufactured, shipped out, and on hand:

Items.	On hand Aug. 1.	Produced Aug. 1 to Nov. 30.	Shipped out Aug. 1 to Nov. 30.	On hand Nov. 30.
Crude oil.....pounds..	a 15,477,352	458,346,889	373,438,107	a 139,516,149
Refined oil.....do....	b238,757,126	c284,368,923	.....	b 122,008,472
Cake and meal.....tons..	92,540	734,763	631,855	195,448
Hulls.....do....	68,016	353,772	307,470	102,278
Linters.....500-pound bales..	102,754	379,344	269,944	d 231,648
Hull fiber.....do....	6,371	88,447	86,641	d 8,572
Motes, grabbats, and sweepings.....do....	8,207	12,833	3,876	d 17,547

a Includes 2,921,600 and 6,606,925 pounds held by refining and manufacturing establishments, and 3,371,700 and 38,816,390 pounds in transit to refiners and consumers Aug. 1 and Nov. 30, respectively.

b Includes 15,200,429 and 8,165,578 pounds held by refiners, brokers, agents, and warehousemen at places other than refineries and manufacturing establishments, and 3,851,445 and 13,548,722 pounds in transit to manufacturers of lard substitute, oleomargarine, soap, etc., Aug. 1 and Nov. 30, respectively.

c Produced from 308,523,604 pounds crude oil.

d Includes 19,494 bales of linters, 195 bales of hull fiber, and 383 bales of motes, grabbats, and sweepings stored elsewhere than at the mills.

NAVIGATION OF MERCHANT VESSELS IN WAR ZONE.

The Steamboat-Inspection Service has issued a circular letter, dated December 15, 1917, addressed to licensed masters and officers of merchant vessels of the United States entering the war zone, in which such officers are directed to comply carefully and promptly with any order from a naval officer, which is considered a military necessity. The circular letter was approved by the Secretary of Commerce, and reads as follows:

The attention of the department has been called to the fact that in some instances the requests, suggestions, and directions contained in the circular letter of the bureau, approved by the Secretary of Commerce, addressed to you under date of May 25, 1917, have been ignored or only perfunctorily complied with. Examples of indifference having been cited to the bureau, with sufficient proof to sustain the complaint, it is necessary to again call your attention to the necessity for the exercise of any and all precautions which will tend to conserve the safety of the ship and the lives under your care.

To this end you are now directed to carefully and promptly comply with any order from the commanding officer of the convoy accompanying the fleet of which your ship may be a part, and whether or not under convoy to carry out to the fullest possible extent the orders or suggestions of the ranking naval officer on board which are considered to be a military necessity. Masters and all licensed officers must preserve at all hazards and to the full extent of their authority the discipline of the officers and crew which is so absolutely necessary, under the present existing conditions, to maintain the highest efficiency of your ship and promote the success of the arms of our country.

Kindly and Cordial Relations.

In order that such desirable conditions may be consummated, there should be maintained the most kindly and cordial relations with officers of other branches of the Government, particularly with the ranking naval officer on board, with strict and due regard for the duties and responsibilities of each. Sobriety is the first essential of discipline; this virtue must be maintained and the example of it kept constantly before everyone.

There is a general demand in Switzerland for all kinds of chemicals and raw materials for industrial purposes. Even those chemicals which were exported before the war are now manufactured in insufficient quantities on account of shortage of the raw products. Almost without exception all raw material for the Swiss chemical industry must be imported. The country is extremely poor in mineral wealth, yielding only salt, lime, and asphalt. Recent arrangements have been made to exploit coal deposits, and to produce alcohol and similar products from calcium carbide. The large chemical factories of the country are located in the Basel consular district.

Swiss exports of chemicals other than dyestuffs to the United States in 1915 amounted to \$551,091, while the imports from the United States during the same year amounted to \$4,000,000, including mineral oils, petroleum, and benzine. The American imports from Switzerland are largely limited to potassium hydrogen tartrate, boric and phosphoric acids, sodium, oils of lavender, camphor, collodion, phosgen, chlorine, codein, coal-tar derivatives, and benzyl chloride.

Imports of Various Chemicals.

Sulphuric acid was imported into Switzerland in 1916, as follows: From France, 1,289,033 pounds; Italy, 1,111,039 pounds; Spain, 267,419 pounds; and England, 88,744 pounds. The price before the war was \$1.93 per 220 pounds.

Lithopone and similar products were imported in 1916, as follows: From Germany, 2,252,682 pounds; Austria, 252,207 pounds. The price was about \$5.79 per 220 pounds, first-class goods. The duty is \$0.19 per 220 pounds gross.

Zinc sheets are classed with zinc bars and tubes. The imports in 1916 amounted to 1,046,000 pounds, of which 1,034,000 pounds came from Germany. The duty is \$0.19 per 220 pounds gross.

Ocher is classed with varnishes. Its price before the war was \$1.15 per 220 pounds. The largest portion was imported from France. The duty is \$0.038 per 220 pounds gross.

Zinc chloride was imported in 1916 to the amount of 88,625 pounds, two-thirds of which came from Germany and about one-third from Holland. Its price before the war was about \$8.70 per 220 pounds. The duty is \$0.058 per 220 pounds gross.

Spelter (zinc in bars and blocks) was imported in 1916, as follows: From Germany, 4,133,225 pounds; Austria, 1,260,573 pounds; United States, 291,240 pounds. It is duty free.

Zinc oxide (including related articles) was imported, as follows: In 1915, 89,070 pounds; in 1916, 13,007 pounds. It came chiefly from France. Before the war the price was about \$13.50 per 220 pounds. Its duty is \$0.193 per 220 pounds gross.

Zinc dust was valued at \$6 to \$7 per 220 pounds and was chiefly imported from Germany. It pays a duty of \$0.0579 per 220 pounds gross.

[A list of chemical importers in the Berne, Switzerland, consular district may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 95303b. An article on the Swiss chemical industry was published in COMMERCE REPORTS for Nov. 13, 1916.]

There is a very active demand in the St. Etienne district for aniline colors, which were formerly supplied by German manufacturers, but the general trade in various chemicals is not of sufficient importance to command the attention of American manufacturers. As the production of matches in France is a Government monopoly, there is no demand whatever in this district for powdered chlorate of potash or other chemicals used in this industry. There are no jobbers or firms handling exclusively chemical products in this region. The center of the trade is said to be at Bordeaux, Havre, and Paris.

To reach the large and small retail trade in this district, it will be necessary either to make a connection with some local representative of European manufacturers of similar lines, or grant an exclusive agency to some established firm in the larger centers mentioned. A few firms and individuals here might be interested in handling certain lines of chemical products.

[The names of the firms in St. Etienne that are mentioned in this report may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 95321b.]

SOUTH AFRICA.

[Consul John P. Bray, Johannesburg, Sept. 20.]

The manufacture of chemicals in South Africa has not reached a high stage of development, and no great endeavor has been made to supply the country's needs, except in the most commonly used products. Although the necessity of establishing chemical industries has been widely discussed and urged by the newspapers, scientific societies, and engineers, no noteworthy attempt has been made to add to the list of products which already are being manufactured. The country is still dependent upon imports which at present are drawn largely from the United Kingdom and the United States. Chemical goods are also received from France, but in more limited quantities than was previously the case, while imports from Germany, which were large before the war, have been stopped entirely.

Good Opportunity to Enter Market.

The dependence upon these sources of supply has caused a shortage in many goods. Prices have risen correspondingly, and the market will probably never prove more accessible than it is at present.

Quotations on various articles were given in the South African Mining Journal of September 1, 1917, as follows: Mercury, \$268 to \$291 per 75-pound bottle last sale, but now no definite price; chlorate, \$1.09 per pound; borax, \$22.04 per 100 pounds; cyanide of soda, 34 cents per pound; acetate of lead, \$19.26 per 100 pounds.

Imports of chemicals into South Africa in 1915 and 1916 were:

Chemicals.	1915	1916	Chemicals.	1915	1916
Acetic acid.....	\$2, 049	\$5, 095	Sulphuric acid.....	\$6, 501	\$3, 490
United Kingdom.....	1, 927	3, 854	United Kingdom.....	5, 820	2, 711
United States.....	44	895	United States.....	540	779
Other countries.....	78	346	Other countries.....	141	.....
Nitric acid.....	3, 558	2, 866	Tannic acid.....	3, 928	3, 532
United Kingdom.....	2, 249	2, 233	United Kingdom.....	813	297
United States.....	876	613	United States.....	3, 115	3, 235
Other countries.....	433	.....	Other countries.....	.....	.....

Ammonia for ice making.....	\$30,559	\$31,438	Carbonate of ammonia—Con.		\$15
United Kingdom.....	5,962	9,227	United States.....		
United States.....	14,168	11,519	Other countries.....		
Other countries.....	10,789	16,692	Soda ash.....		24,874
Ap theore ware.....	739,067	62,216	United Kingdom.....		24,863
United Kingdom.....	557,788	409,955	United States.....		15
United States.....	67,266	61,335	Other countries.....		
Other countries.....	104,633	97,224	Caustic soda.....	\$157,416	346,475
Borax.....	80,555	12,555	United Kingdom.....	130,354	268,772
United Kingdom.....	80,555	12,555	United States.....	24,225	76,444
United States.....	5	443	Other countries.....	2,837	2,837
Other countries.....	15	29	Chloride of lime.....	30,230	30,652
Bromine, lithium, and man-			United Kingdom.....	26,629	28,572
ganese dioxide.....	28,109	65,050	United States.....	3,601	2,065
United Kingdom.....	27,389	62,588	Other countries.....		
United States.....	5	822	Iota-h compounds.....	68,627	117,185
Other countries.....	715	1,04	United Kingdom.....	43,239	85,271
Calcium carbide.....	319,977	257,565	United States.....	9,864	8,142
United Kingdom.....	204	1,090	Other countries.....	15,524	23,382
United States.....	12,390	14,590	Soda compounds.....	174,951	79,222
Other countries.....	307,383	241,885	United Kingdom.....	84,440	70,730
Carbonate of ammonia.....	4,755	7,582	United States.....	3,055	7,481
United Kingdom.....	4,755	7,567	Other countries.....	87,456	1,212

Action by Commerce Association.

In view of the possible shortage of caustic soda, the Association of Chambers of Commerce of South Africa recently invited the opinions of its members in regard to the extent of the existing stocks, the possibility of their exhaustion during the coming season, and as to whether it was advisable for the Government to take steps to preclude any possible shortage.

An exception to the nondevelopment of chemical industries is the proposed construction of a carbide plant. In view of the high price at which carbide has been selling—recently quoted at \$114 per ton—hope is expressed that this industry will prove permanent.

ARGENTINA.

[Consul General W. Henry Robertson, Buenos Aires.]

Chemicals are manufactured to only a limited extent in Argentina. The values of the imports of chemical and pharmaceutical products in the six-year period 1911–1916 are officially given in Argentine pesos as follows: In 1911, 12,178,274 pesos; in 1912, 14,281,226 pesos; in 1913, 15,193,658 pesos; in 1914, 11,109,635 pesos; in 1915, 10,590,210 pesos; in 1916, 12,197,367 pesos.

Government statistics of the imports of various important chemicals for the five-year period 1910–1914, and for the separate years 1914, 1915, and 1916 have been compiled. The values are in Argentine gold (peso=\$0.9648), and the quantities for the five-year period are given in kilos of 2.2 pounds each. The figures are:

Chemicals.	Five years, 1910-1914.		1914	1915	1916
	Kilos.	Value.			
		Pesos.	Pesos.	Pesos.	Pesos.
Acetic acid.....	1,839,759	312,757	48,956	48,757	20,639
Citric acid.....	779,665	506,780	60,928	68,007	72,385
Carbolic acid.....	113,099	21,328	2,532	2,627	5,346
Borax.....	193,037	19,301	2,742	3,034	2,664
Potassium chlorate.....	785,374	119,434	26,795	44,126	12,471
Bleaching powder.....	2,713,107	54,259	10,916	19,199	9,701
Glycerin.....	559,293	193,760	27,533	9,965	16,210
Caustic soda.....	32,343,206	1,617,161	323,766	320,194	348,796
Soda ash.....	17,227,485	516,823	106,476	141,077	166,473
Blue vitriol:					
Pure.....	53,113	42,490	4,431	155	2,540
Impure.....	5,776,326	866,450	136,856	196,873	212,734
Bichromates.....				19,681	4,732

Duties in Argentina, while s
reality are specific, since in mo
ing an advalorem rate upon a
ing to a general table of values
which most imports are still cl
cles mentioned in this report
fixed valuations in Argentine ge
of 0.17 peso per gross kilo; cit
peso per kilo; carbolic acid, 2
kilo; borax, 40 per cent on va
potash, impure, 25 per cent on
powder, 25 per cent on value c
cent on value of 0.35 peso per
of 0.05 peso per gross kilo; sod
per gross kilo; blue vitriol, pur
net kilo; blue vitriol, impure,
kilo; bichromates of potash, im
per kilo.

An Argentine decree of Feb
No. 10221, that all merchandi
of import duties of 10 to 20 p
additional duty of 2 per cent
greater than 20 per cent, they
7 per cent. These additional t
would apply to most of the c
rates of duty.

OFFICE AT BOSTON FOR

To keep more directly in to
the waters of Maine, New Har
States Coast and Geodetic S
customhouse at Boston abou
charge of this office, Mr. Hor
the Survey, will be prepared
operations of this branch of t

It will be the endeavor of
steamship lines, yacht clubs, i
dangers discovered, changes i
information needed by the su
tions up to date shall be made
possible.

A complete and up-to-date
to our coasts and surveys wi
interested, and the office will
other publications of the sur

Several Norwegian muniti
name Norsk Spraengstofindus

The output of tin ore from
Malay States amounted to ne

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the Bureau and its district and cooperative offices. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and state opportunity number. The Bureau does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases. Symbols: * Reported by American consular officers; † Reported by commercial attachés and commercial agents; ‡ Direct inquiries received by the Bureau.

In considering the following "opportunities" special regard should be had to the laws and regulations governing export licenses and trading with the enemy.

Agricultural implements.....	26111	Paint and varnish materials.....	26109
Brattis cloth.....	26107	Paper making materials.....	26109
Furniture.....	26113	Pianos.....	26110
Hospital furniture.....	26109	Snap fasteners.....	26112
Machinery.....	26114	Soap making materials.....	26109
Marine motors.....	26114	Thrashing machines.....	26111
Orthotoluol sulphamid.....	26114	Tractors.....	26110

26107.†—A company in Chile desires to purchase brattis cloth for sealing mine galleries. The cloth should come in rolls of 100 yards and preferably 72 inches wide, although it can be used in narrower widths. From 300 to 500 rolls will be required. Quotations should be made f. o. b. New York. Cash will be paid in New York. Correspondence may be in English. A sample of the kind of cloth desired may be examined at the Bureau or its district offices. (Refer to file No. 1324.)

26108.†—The director of a society in Peru which is building a large hospital for women would like to be placed in communication with American manufacturers and exporters of hospital furniture and supplies. The hospital is planned to accommodate 650 beds. A publication containing a description in Spanish of the hotel may be examined at the Bureau or its district offices. (Refer to file No. 1322.)

26109.†—A company in Canada desires to secure an agency for the sale of raw materials that can be imported into Canada on a competitive basis, used in the manufacture of paints, varnishes, soap, and paper, such as caustic soda, silicate of soda, lamp and bone black, asphaltum, litharge, whiting, blanc fix, saltpeter, China clay, sulphur, etc. Quotations may be made f. o. b. Payment will be made by draft with bill of lading attached or by bill of low and medium priced pianos. Reference.

26110.*—A man in England wishes to purchase or secure an agency for the sale of low and medium-priced pianos. Reference.

26111.*—A man in France wishes to buy three tractors worked by steam or petroleum with plows for the culture of estates in Algeria; one powerful threshing machine; and various small agricultural implements. Quotations should be made f. o. b. New York. Payment will be made against documents. Correspondence may be in English. Reference.

26112.*—A firm in England is in the market for glove fasteners for cap peaks No. 3 size, in 1,000 gross lots. Sample set of kind of fastener desired may be examined at the Bureau or its district offices. (Refer to file No. 94751). Reference.

26113.†—A large manufacturing company in Peru desires to represent American manufacturers and exporters of furniture, especially bedroom, dining room, office furniture, and fancy center tables of knocked-down construction. Correspondence may be in English.

26114.†—The representative of a manufacturers association in South Africa who will be in the United States for a period of three months desires to establish permanent connections with American firms in a position to furnish monthly 3 hundredweight of orthotoluol sulphamid to be used in the manufacture of saccharin. He also wishes to purchase woodworking machinery, foundry equipment, molding machines, envelope machinery, air compressors, marine motors, machinery for producing caustic soda from salt, and machinery for making calcium carbide, also orthotoluol sulphamid. Further information may be had on application to the Bureau or its district offices. References.

Extension for a period of three years after the close of the war of the extraordinary powers now exercised by the Government in the regulation of imports and exports is the object of a bill now before Parliament. This measure, entitled Imports and Exports (Temporary Control) Bill, presented by the president of the board of trade, embodies the most important legislation thus far initiated with a view to protecting and controlling British trade after the war. Unless extended, present powers of control of exports and imports will to a great extent lapse upon the cessation of hostilities.

Section I, paragraph 1 of the bill reads as follows:

The Lords of the Council on the recommendation of the board of trade may by Order prohibit the importation or exportation of goods of any class, description, or origin, or produced or manufactured in whole or in part in any country or place specified in the Order, either generally or from or to any country or place named in the Order, subject in either case to such exceptions (if any) as may be specified in the Order, and to any licenses the grant of which may be authorized by the Order.

While ordinary legislation has given authority for certain measures of control in times of peace, the particular powers which it is desired to make effective beyond the duration of the war are the following: Prohibition of importation of goods of specified origin; prohibition of exportation of goods of any kind; prohibition of exportation of all goods to any country or place specified.

The desire on the part of British interests for some action of this nature is shown in a resolution in favor of "restriction, by tariff or otherwise, of the trade relations with enemy countries" adopted by the Association of Chambers of Commerce of the United Kingdom in 1916. An account of this and other declarations of policy in regard to commercial legislation will be found in an article published in COMMERCE REPORTS for November 2 under the title of "Effect of the War on Tariff Policies."

The passage of the bill at an early date is deemed probable.

WILD-COCOON CROP OF SOUTHEASTERN MANCHURIA.

[Vice Consul N. F. Allman, Antung, China, Nov. 15.]

In the absence of published statistics it is not possible to give official figures regarding the cocoon crop of the Antung district. However, estimates from the local filatures and large cocoon dealers place the output at nearly double the quantity raised last year. (The 1916 cocoon crop was almost a complete failure.)

The fall crop is estimated at 60,000 baskets, with 40,000 cocoons to the basket. The average price is 1.55 taels per 1,000 cocoons, or 3,720,000 taels for the estimated crop. At the current rate of exchange the value expressed in United States currency is \$3,737,850.

Though the silkworms passed through many wet days during July and August, no serious harm was caused to them, and they matured favorably. However, the cocoons are not quite up to mark in quality, as supply of scrub oak leaves was limited in comparison with the large number of worms feeding on them.

The past week has seen the greatest advance in the price of jute and flax products recorded in a like period since the war started. Some values were advanced with the intention of impeding business, and in several directions this object was achieved for the time being at least, but in general there were buyers evidently prepared to pay any figure so long as the goods were forthcoming.

The three chief causes for the rapid rise of prices are (1) the nonarrival of a quantity of raw material which the spinners were expecting, (2) the temporary interruption to output resulting from a cessation of work by the younger employees to express their dissatisfaction over the wages award, and (3) the knowledge that further cloth commandeering by the Government is shortly to take place.

Flax and Tow—Raw Jute—Jute and Linen Yarns.

There is again reported the arrival in this country of a considerable quantity of raw flax, the bulk of which has been distributed and the remainder stored in warehouses. There is very little tow, and in the large shipments yet to arrive the quantity of tow expected is small in proportion to the amount of flax.

It has been quite clearly shown that the bulk of the raw-jute buying has been concluded for January-March; and of the business that has been done it is reported that requirements have been covered to a fair amount in special marks. Calcutta was expressing difficulty in regard to common jute, which was accumulating and preventing transactions in the better qualities which were being inquired for.

In jute yarns there have recently been rapid changes in price, none of which have been to the advantage of the buyers. Linen-yarn prices are steadily increasing.

Linen and Jute Fabrics—Hemp Situation.

The whole linen industry is so largely engaged on Government orders that other trade is negligible. Still the demand goes on, and this great demand for material is rapidly driving up the prices of any goods there may be to spare. A request has been made for paddings of jute quality for delivery at any time next year, a demand that manufacturers do not seem disposed to entertain. Further orders appear to be a matter of no consequence. The lighter end is moving steadily and the requests are quite favorable; and, on the whole, there is little or no reason for complaint. Prices are still rising, and there appears to be no possibility of any relief while the war holds; and then, too, next season's supply of raw material has to be kept in view—a very uncertain item.

In the course of the past few days 10½-ounce 40-inch hessians have advanced from 18 cents to 19 cents, and even to 20 cents. Price and refusal to sell are the outstanding features of the market.

Business in Italian hemp is said to be nominal. Some holders reveal a willingness to accept considerably lower terms. There is nothing reported in reference to Russian fiber, the whole export position being one of chaos.

The Committee on Pro-
tection for higher wages.
over 18 years, one of 3s. (1
1s. 6d. (\$0.37) to youths
wage scale in the Dundee j

1912. Spinners' and preparers'

1912. Wages of all other emplo

1913. Wages of all employees

1914. No increase of wages gra

1915. Increase of 5 per cent to

1915. War bonus for full time

1915. Standard scale of wages

1915. Increase of 1s. per week

1915. Women doing men's wor

1916. Calender workers' wages

1916. Time-workers 2s. per we

1917. Males over 18 years—tim

exclusive war bonus; 1

pieceworkers 7½ per

years—time-workers 1

war bonus.

1917. Males over 18 years, an

an increase of 3s. per

per week.

Exportation of Jute Goods Proh

The order of the British
of manufactured jute good

In pursuance of the powers c
Regulations, the Army Council

1. On any sale of any article
wholly or partly from jute it

from the purchaser a guaranty

be exported from the United

chaser that such article or mate

to obtain a permit issued by

authorizing the sale or manuf

material as aforesaid.

2. No person shall sell or de

aforesaid for exportation from

by or on behalf of the Director

3. For the purposes hereof

deemed to include yarns.

4. This order may be cited as

FIRST FORECAST OF

[Indian (Gove

This forecast is based up

inces of Madras, Burma, an

the entire groundnut (pean

The total area sown in

Provinces is estimated at

estimated at this time last

decrease, which occurs ma

placement of groundnuts b

former and the high price

has been favorable, and th

good.

Two Uruguayan commercial delegates, one of whom is director of the Superior School of Commerce of Montevideo, recently returned from Rio de Janeiro, where they attended a conference having for its object the furthering of trade between the American Republics and the extension of commercial education. The plan proposed by the Uruguayan delegates had for its main features the creation in each American country of an exposition or museum of natural and manufactured products of every other American country and the furnishing of information concerning place of production, transportation facilities, freight rates, dealers, and c. i. f. cost of each product. Students of schools of commerce will take part in the organization and management of the museums.

At the Rio de Janeiro conference a "project of convention" was signed looking to the carrying out of the Uruguayan plan as respects Uruguay and Brazil. This agreement (which is not in final form) provides for the appointment of commissions to study the preliminaries of an American Congress of Economics and Commercial Education, including means of exchanging information on economic topics, especially credit and exchange, raw, half-manufactured, and manufactured products, methods of production and exchange, buying and selling markets, distances and methods of communication and transportation by land and water, tariffs and internal and external imposts, prices and stocks, and commercial statistics. The principal question to be discussed in the congress will be commercial education and the necessity for extending it to primary grades. An effort will be made to secure uniform curricula and texts, with a view to giving commercial education a solid and distinctly American foundation.

The director of the School of Commerce is already in touch with Argentina, Paraguay, and Chile, and hopes that it may be practicable to hold the American Congress of Economics and Commercial Education by the end of 1918.

FOURTEENTH ANNUAL RURAL CONGRESS IN URUGUAY.

[Consul William Dawson, Montevideo, Oct. 20.]

The fourteenth annual rural congress held at Montevideo under the auspices of the Asociación Rural del Uruguay was closed on October 19, 1917.

Among others the congress adopted resolutions recommending the definite organization of the national nursery of the Estanzuela; an increase in the remuneration of rural police; the canalization of the Arroyo Rosario and improvement of the port of Concordia; inclusion of lectures on coöperative organization among those given by agronomic inspectors; construction and repair of certain roads and bridges, particularly in the north; construction of official stock-dipping baths; installation of a cold-storage plant in which fruit growers can make experiments in fruit refrigeration; additional facilities, increase in personnel, and larger appropriations for traveling expenses, for agronomic inspectors, particularly in rural districts; extension of franking privilege to correspondence of rural associations.

The movement of coal at
during September and 9 m
follows:

Classes and railroads.	Originat
	1916
FOR REVENUE ONLY.	
Anthracite:	<i>Short tons</i>
Baltimore & Ohio.....	
Buffalo, Rochester & Pitts- burgh.....	
Buffalo & Susquehanna.....	
Chesapeake & Ohio.....	286
Erie.....	510,682
Pennsylvania.....	455,330
Pittsburgh & Lake Erie.....	
Pittsburg, Shamut & Northern.....	
Virginian.....	
Western Maryland.....	
Total.....	966,307
Bituminous:	
Baltimore & Ohio.....	2,517,651
Buffalo, Rochester & Pitts- burgh.....	867,682
Buffalo & Susquehanna.....	127,222
Chesapeake & Ohio.....	1,903,288
Erie.....	16,692
New York Central (Buf- falo and east).....	505,926
Norfolk & Western.....	2,192,486
Pennsylvania.....	3,487,175
Pittsburgh & Lake Erie.....	624,798
Pittsburgh & Shamut.....	225,070
Pittsburg, Shamut & Northern.....	168,117
Virginian.....	407,561
Western Maryland.....	321,585
Total.....	13,444,373
FOR COMPANY FUEL.	
Anthracite:	
Erie.....	15,367
Pennsylvania.....	11,751
Total.....	27,118
Bituminous:	
Baltimore & Ohio.....	509,590
Buffalo, Rochester & Pittsburgh.....	62,320
Buffalo & Susquehanna.....	8,260
Chesapeake & Ohio.....	188,680
Erie.....	122,440
New York Central (Buf- falo and east).....	193,760
Norfolk & Western.....	203,200
Pennsylvania.....	631,730
Pittsburgh & Lake Erie.....	27,290
Pittsburg & Shawmut.....	2,520
Pittsburg, Shawmut & Northern.....	7,300
Virginian.....	29,180
Western Maryland.....	30,870
Total.....	2,007,200
COKE FOR REVENUE AND FUEL.	
Baltimore & Ohio.....	230,770
Buffalo, Rochester & Pitts- burgh.....	28,820

Classes and railroads.	Originating on line.		Received from connections.		Total.	
	1916	1917	1916	1917	1916	1917
COKE FOR REVENUE AND FUEL—Continued.						
	<i>Short tons.</i>	<i>Short tons.</i>	<i>Short tons.</i>	<i>Short tons.</i>	<i>Short tons.</i>	<i>Short tons.</i>
Buffalo & Susquehanna.....	38,530	29,725	.....	110	38,530	29,835
Chesapeake & Ohio.....	35,088	26,778	7,981	9,266	43,069	36,044
Erie.....	.....	.....	110,571	70,899	110,571	70,899
Norfolk & Western.....	147,341	181,164	7,135	12,130	154,476	193,294
Pennsylvania.....	880,081	725,917	285,913	268,178	1,165,994	1,024,086
Pittsburgh & Lake Erie.....	92,873	77,419	510,705	503,427	603,578	580,846
Virginian.....	.....	.....	26	.....	26	.....
Western Maryland.....	6,976	7,232	9,843	6,494	16,819	13,726
Total.....	1,510,483	1,314,971	1,021,409	970,724	2,531,892	2,285,486

NINE MONTHS ENDING SEPTEMBER.

FOR REVENUE ONLY.						
Anthracite:	<i>Short tons.</i>	<i>Short tons.</i>	<i>Short tons.</i>	<i>Short tons.</i>	<i>Short tons.</i>	<i>Short tons.</i>
Baltimore & Ohio.....	.....	.....	1,121,680	1,409,096	1,121,680	1,409,096
Buffalo, Rochester & Pittsburgh.....	.....	.....	120,584	188,842	120,584	188,842
Buffalo & Susquehanna.....	.....	.....	4,759	2,696	4,759	2,696
Chesapeake & Ohio.....	1,034	801	10,918	6,048	11,952	6,849
Erie.....	5,833,708	6,824,790	1,108,597	1,771,751	6,942,306	8,596,541
Pennsylvania.....	4,320,813	4,575,572	4,508,054	3,637,088	8,828,867	8,212,638
Pittsburgh & Lake Erie.....	.....	.....	504	1,377	504	1,377
Pittsburg, Shawmut & Northern.....	.....	.....	8,967	8,485	8,967	8,485
Virginian.....	186	1,548	2,577	1,678	2,763	3,226
Western Maryland.....	.....	.....	256,460	392,942	256,460	392,942
Total.....	10,155,741	11,402,711	7,143,190	7,420,001	17,298,931	18,822,712
Bituminous:						
Baltimore & Ohio.....	21,775,279	22,019,974	5,022,179	5,766,058	26,797,458	27,786,032
Buffalo, Rochester & Pittsburgh.....	7,030,753	7,491,861	27,063	60,136	7,057,816	7,551,997
Buffalo & Susquehanna.....	1,129,370	1,177,591	126	1,961	1,129,496	1,179,552
Chesapeake & Ohio.....	18,487,903	18,191,893	1,902,540	1,325,219	20,390,443	19,517,112
Erie.....	158,569	237,025	6,256,955	6,158,609	6,415,524	6,395,634
New York Central (Buffalo and east).....	5,780,972	6,320,119	.....	.....	5,780,972	6,320,119
Norfolk & Western.....	19,170,311	18,247,697	4,239,558	4,334,093	23,409,869	22,581,790
Pennsylvania.....	31,997,581	33,306,797	4,825,719	6,403,390	36,823,300	38,710,187
Pittsburgh & Lake Erie.....	4,530,465	5,006,359	3,897,961	3,711,788	8,428,426	8,718,138
Pittsburg & Shawmut & Northern.....	225,070	210,049	.....	.....	225,070	210,049
Virginian.....	2,181,273	1,077,022	5,319	140	2,186,592	1,077,162
Western Maryland.....	3,412,447	4,237,908	560,772	670,221	4,003,219	4,908,128
Total.....	2,763,188	3,827,700	3,640,848	2,998,276	6,404,036	6,826,976
Total.....	118,673,181	121,360,986	30,079,040	31,429,893	148,752,221	152,790,676
FOR COMPANY FUEL.						
Anthracite:						
Baltimore & Ohio.....	.....	.....	36	.....	36	.....
Erie.....	143,940	130,769	145	98	144,084	130,867
Pennsylvania.....	101,199	191,269	135,308	97,747	236,597	289,016
Total.....	245,148	331,038	135,489	97,845	380,637	428,883
Bituminous:						
Baltimore & Ohio.....	4,346,818	4,678,574	131,663	111,749	4,478,489	4,790,323
Buffalo, Rochester, & Pittsburgh.....	541,785	585,074	.....	.....	541,785	585,074
Buffalo & Susquehanna.....	80,652	74,457	.....	.....	80,652	74,457
Chesapeake & Ohio.....	1,731,564	1,685,322	.....	.....	1,731,564	1,685,322
Erie.....	1,048,323	975,117	1,451,138	2,122,415	2,499,461	3,097,533
New York Central (Buffalo and east).....	1,840,096	1,575,268	.....	.....	1,840,096	1,575,268
Norfolk & Western.....	1,988,820	2,067,562	361,837	410,564	2,349,657	2,478,126
Pennsylvania.....	5,890,642	5,988,272	718	138,359	5,891,000	6,126,635
Pittsburgh & Lake Erie.....	244,749	401,794	90,349	19,366	344,098	421,165
Pittsburg & Shawmut.....	2,522	3,326	.....	.....	2,522	3,326

Classes and railroads.	Or
	1
FOR COMPANY FUEL—con.	
Bituminous—Continued.	
Pittsburg, Shawmut & Northern.....	Sho
Virginian.....	:
Western Maryland.....	:
Total.....	18.
COKE FOR REVENUE AND FUEL.	
Baltimore & Ohio.....	2,
Buffalo, Rochester & Pittsburgh.....	:
Buffalo & Susquehanna.....	:
Chesapeake & Ohio.....	:
Norfolk & Western.....	1,
Pennsylvania.....	8,
Pittsburgh & Lake Erie.....	:
Pittsburg, Shawmut & Northern.....	:
Virginian.....	:
Western Maryland.....	:
Total.....	14

No statistics were re
the Huntingdon & Bro

MARKET

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Inasmuch as there is
cion, which has about
or towns of the Repu
supply of hand pump
to be used in wells for
business houses, public
breweries, three ice pl
plants, and a very fe
little larger than tho
cally no market for a
from wells for ordina

The total value of
averages about \$6,000
from the United Sta
competitor, followed

An Asuncion impo
the country. Inform
tained from one or t
Banco de la Republic
& Paraguay.

[The name of the imp
of Foreign and Domestic
file No. 95587.]

The Dutch Ministry of Agriculture, Industry, and Commerce is divided into three administrative departments or "afdeelingen." The Afdeeling Landbouw, or Agricultural Department, has charge of all governmental work that is in any way connected with agriculture; the Afdeeling Nijverheid, or Industrial Department, concerns itself with technical questions connected with industry; and the Afdeeling Handel, or Trade Department, has charge of governmental activities that concern the promotion not only of foreign and domestic commerce, but also, to a great extent, of domestic industry. Roughly speaking, then, the Trade Department corresponds to the United States Department of Commerce. The Dutch Trade Department's functions are, however, more extensive but much less intensive.

The administrative head of the Trade Department is styled Chief. He is not a member of the cabinet, nor has he any voice in the legislative branch of the Government. However, the Minister of Agriculture, Industry, and Commerce, as a member of the cabinet, is responsible to the legislators, and as a matter of practice he continually appears before the Chambers, either to defend his public acts and policies or to speak for or against a bill that may be under consideration.

The Department is now undergoing a reorganization, which provides for four assistants instead of two. Under the assistant who has charge of the promotion of industry there will be four "Nijverheids Consulants" or industrial advisers, three of whom will be paid and one of whom will be honorary. These industrial advisers will be technically trained men who will assist the various trades by giving expert advice, etc.

Sources of Foreign Trade Information.

The most important source of foreign-trade information is the consular service. There are no commercial attachés or special agents at present (see account below, under heading "Plans for extending foreign service after war"). Next in importance as a source of information are the chambers of commerce abroad, located at Melbourne, Smyrna, Dusseldorf (called the Merchants' Guild), London, San Francisco, Cal. (called the Holland-America Chamber of Commerce for the Pacific), Paris, and Brussels.

As the Dutch consular service is not so large as the British, French, German, or United States services, private firms have to be depended upon to a great extent for supplying foreign-trade information.

The consuls are under the direct control of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and all reports are made directly to that Ministry. However, for a long time there was a custom by which the Trade Department could correspond directly with the members of the consular service, asking them whatever questions the department desired. Such reports were, in turn, sent directly to the Trade Department by the consuls, but these reports were never used as a basis for publicity without the previous approval of the Minister of Foreign Affairs. There appears to have been no friction or difficulty over this method of consular procedure. This may be traceable to the close cooperation

Office. Recently, however, in such inquiries through the come directly to the Trade I

Up to the present time no investigations abroad. In f one man abroad; he was th to Russia for the purpose of

Technical experts are em ants, or industrial advisers. questions connected with ha cials who correspond in any mercial agents.

Commercial Publications.

The Trade Department p ten. The material for this p from consuls, economic stu partment, ministerial decre pared by outside writers. annually a collection of th This annual publication, w contains special reports on Department, and special re the year. The last issue of in 1914.

The Ministry of Foreign sisting of consular reports.

Statistical Material.

Dutch statistics are gath special office, called the cen prepared by this bureau at

(1) The Maandstatistiek potveerkeer (monthly statis bond). This publication d articles.

(2) The Maandschrift v (monthly of the central bu tains articles on economic s as much statistical materia jects.

(3) The Jaarcijfers (a tables on all economic, com

No confidential circulars special printed reports are

Cooperation with Other Depart

Cooperation between the ments of the Government a or particularly defined by 1 ary. The basis of this co tween the members of the officials.

groups, and organizations to which governmental subsidies are given under the Trade Department's budget.

There is also close, informal cooperation with the chambers of commerce abroad (informal voluntary bodies), the chambers of commerce in the Netherlands (honorary official bodies), and the Bureau Voor Handelsinlichtingen (Bureau for Trade Information) at Amsterdam. This last-named bureau has agreed to carry on correspondence only with people not connected with foreign legations. The Trade Department, on the other hand, is in touch with the various legations at The Hague.

There is also consistent cooperation with the Maatschappij van Nijverheid (Company of Industry), a very powerful corporation that was formed by the Crown many years ago for the purpose of promoting trade with the Indies, and with the various commissions named in the budget as receiving subsidies from the Government.

Plans for Extending Foreign Service After War.

As soon as conditions return more nearly to their normal state the Netherlands intends to launch definite plans for improving its foreign commercial-information service. In some ways this work will resemble that which is now being carried on by the representatives of the United States Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

A corps of technical men will be selected to form a special service under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Some of these advisers will be permanently stationed abroad and will have definite territory to cover. They will be attached to the legation or consulate of the country in which they are working and will work in conjunction with the Dutch envoy or the head of the consular post. They may be occupied with the technical examination of particular articles or industries in the country where they are located, or they may be charged with the task of developing the market for special Dutch articles, of either home or colonial production. Reports will be made both to the Minister of Foreign Affairs and to the Dutch legation or consulate. This service will correspond very closely to the United States commercial-attaché service.

In addition to the corps of permanent technical advisers there will also be a corps of temporary technical advisers, who will be sent out to accomplish specific work, such, for instance, as the rendering of a special report to the Minister of Foreign Affairs or the lending of expert assistance to the legation or consulate in connection with a temporary question.

An entirely new arm of the consular service is to be established, members of which will be styled "consular officers of general service." They will be free to travel through different consular districts and will be expected particularly to assist honorary consuls and to report on the desirability of the establishment or abolishment of particular consular posts. Their principal work will not be administrative, however, for they will be expected to spend most of their time in actually promoting trade and in obtaining information for the Dutch Government. This information will be disseminated by the Trade Department (Afdeeling Handel), but all reports of the "consular officers of general service" will be made directly to

For the information of American manufacturers and others desirous of selling materials to the Allied Governments, it is announced that arrangements were entered into in the latter part of August, 1917, by the Secretary of the Treasury, with the approval of the President, with the Governments of Great Britain, France, Russia, Italy, Belgium, and Serbia, whereby Messrs. Bernard M. Baruch, Robert S. Lovett, and Robert S. Brookings of the War Industries Board were designated a commission through whom or with whose approval or consent all purchases in the United States of materials and supplies by or on behalf of these Governments shall be made.

Under this arrangement these Governments communicate their requirements for materials and supplies to this commission through their designated purchasing agents in this country, and the commission then uses its best efforts to obtain offers of the materials and supplies required at the best obtainable prices and terms, of delivery and otherwise, and submits the same to the purchasing agent concerned, it being no part of the commission's duty to prepare and sign contracts, or to supervise their execution, or to determine technical details, or to carry out the inspection of materials, all of which matters are cared for by the Governments concerned.

Agreement by Foreign Governments.

The foreign Governments have agreed not to make purchases in the United States otherwise than through or with the consent of the commission. The arrangements provide that nothing expressed or implied, nor anything done or omitted by the commission, shall impose any obligation or liability upon the United States whether to advance moneys, to establish credits, or otherwise. The purchasing commission in carrying out the terms of this agreement is endeavoring to see first that the wants of the Governments associated with the United States in the war are supplied as promptly as possible, and without interfering with the requirements of our own Government. This necessarily involves the finding of a source of supply from which articles needed by the Allies can be obtained without prejudice to contracts placed with the United States Government for articles of the same kind, and in many cases it has been found necessary to develop new sources of supply—that is, to induce some one who has not been previously making the articles needed to produce them. Manufacturers who are producing or who believe their plants are in a position to produce supplies needed by the Allied Governments should make known this fact to the Allied Purchasing Commission, which is now located in the new and temporary structure housing the Council of National Defense at Eighteenth and D Streets, Washington, D. C.

OFFICES OF THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE

DISTRICT OFFICES.

NEW YORK: 784 Customhouse.
BOSTON: 1801 Customhouse.
CHICAGO: 504 Federal Building.
ST. LOUIS: 402 Third National Bank Building.
NEW ORLEANS: 1020 Hibernia Bank Building.
SAN FRANCISCO: 807 Customhouse.
SEATTLE: 848 Henry Building.

COOPERATIVE OFFICES.

CLEVELAND: Chamber of Commerce.
CINCINNATI: Chamber of Commerce.
CINCINNATI: General Freight Agent, Southern Railway, 96 Ingralls Building.
LOS ANGELES: Chamber of Commerce.
PHILADELPHIA: Chamber of Commerce.
CHATTANOOGA: South American Agent, Southern Railway System.
PORTLAND, OREG.: Chamber of Commerce.
DAYTON: Greater Dayton Association.

British India's sugar-cane this season than last, according to the forecast for 1917-18. This forecast indicates that the cane crops that contain 99 per cent sucrose reports indicate an acreage of 2,340 against an estimated 2,340 year ago, an increase of 10 per cent (2,414,000 acres) for an increase of 6 per cent.

The Indian Trade Journal is affected to a certain extent by the war in parts of the United Provinces and by disease and insect pests. In the United Provinces, the crops, on the whole, are good.

CONGRESS OF POLITICIANS

[Consul General Made]

The Polish engineers and a congress at Moscow from 1917 were present. The programme concerning the rehabilitation of Poland after the war, also the organization of the sections dealt with architecture and economics.

It was decided to found a commission in Russia, with branches in Poland and also to undertake the publication of the organ of the society, one relating to the future economic development of Poland.

COTTON GINNING

The number of bales of cotton ginned in the growth of 1917 prior to the war was piled by the United States counting round as half bales corresponding date in 1916 it was 10,306,309. These figures for 1917, 184,285 for 1916, and island bales included is 83,400 for 1915. The distribution of cotton ginned in Florida, 35,177; Georgia, 35,177; corrected statistics of the quantity of cotton ginned to December 1 are 2,716,098.

The imports of foreign cotton, August, 1917, were valued at \$4,000,000 compared with the corresponding month of 1916 from Siam amounted to \$4,000,000.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the Bureau and its district and cooperative offices. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and state opportunity number. The Bureau does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases. Symbols: * Reported by American consular officers; † Reported by commercial attachés and commercial agents; ‡ Direct inquiries received by the Bureau.

In considering the following "opportunities" special regard should be had to the laws and regulations governing export licenses and trading with the enemy.

Anilines.....	26118	Hosiery.....	26124
Beltting.....	26117	Ink.....	26122
Canned goods.....	26116	Linen cloth.....	26123
Clothing.....	26123	Machinery.....	26120
Cocoa beans.....	26120	Moldings.....	26119
Cotton and woolen goods.....	26123, 26124	Sugar.....	26120
Drugs and chemicals.....	26118	Theater seats.....	26115
Dyes and dyestuffs.....	26117, 26118	Typewriters and accessories.....	26121
Haberdashery.....	26124	Wood carvings.....	26119
Hardware.....	26117	Yarns.....	26124

26115.†—A man in Peru desires to be placed in communication with American manufacturers and exporters of seats to be used in a theater which is being built, with a seating capacity for 1,500 people.

26116.*—A business man in Canada wishes to be put in touch with American canners of tomatoes and corn.

26117.*—A company in India desires to secure an agency for the sale of rubber, hair, or cotton belting of the best quality, and cheapest quality in cotton for elevator work. It also desires to purchase all kinds of hardware and dyes for cotton and silk. Quotations should be made f. o. b. New York. Correspondence may be in English. References.

26118.*—An agency is desired by a man in Portugal for the sale of chemical products, anilines, dyestuffs, chemicals, and drugs. Quotations should be made f. o. b. New York, including commission. Duplicate samples should be submitted. Correspondence may be in English. References.

26119.†—A man in Peru is in the market for machine-made wood carvings for furniture and all kinds of prepared moldings. Catalogues and literature should be submitted.

26120.*—A man in Italy desires to purchase machinery for making chocolate, cocoa, etc., also cocon beans, sugar, and powdered milk. Correspondence may be in English. References.

26121.*—A firm in Switzerland desires to purchase and secure an agency for the sale of new and rebuilt typewriters, typewriter accessories, and novelties, and typewriter tools. Payment will be made against documents or by agency terms. Quotations may be made f. o. b. via France. The machines should be packed in seaworthy, metal-lined cases. Correspondence may be in English, but French is preferred. References.

26122.*—An agency is desired by a man in Portugal for the sale of writing and printers' inks for presswork and litho. Quotations should be made f. o. b. New York, including commission. Duplicate samples should be submitted. Goods should be carefully boxed or crated. Correspondence may be in English. References.

26123.*—A business man in France wishes to secure an agency for the sale of cotton and wool tissues, linen cloth, and ready-made clothes for men and women. He desires to carry stock or do business on a commission basis. Quotations should be made f. o. b. New York. Correspondence should be in French. Reference.

26124.*—A merchant in India desires to purchase and secure an agency for the sale of all kinds of cotton and woolen piece goods, hosiery, haberdashery, and yarns. Payment will be made by 60-day draft against documents. Correspondence may be in English. References.



DAILY
ISSUED DAILY BY THE

For sale by the Superin

No. 299 Washington

Enemy indorsements upon neg
instruments-----
Fair checks and lottery of Lima
railway-----
Greek steamships must have v
equipment-----
Recent industrial development
pan-----
The Chinese post office in 191
Three months' exports from J
to United States-----
Grocery catalogues and fo
wanted-----
Northern Spain's profitable in
posits-----

ENEMY INDORSEME

The War Trade Boar

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No cash registers are used on the street cars of Lima, Peru, the company preferring to rely for its records upon serially numbered, printed paper slips somewhat similar to the transfers used in the United States. One of these is given to each passenger when his fare is paid, and he is required to show it to the inspector who boards the cars at frequent intervals to check up the conductor. Two kinds of slips are used—one for a straight ride and another for a “connexión,” or transfer to another line. When the latter is presented to the conductor on the connecting line, one end is torn to show that it has been canceled, but the ticket is retained by the passenger, as in the case of the straight-ride ticket, so that he may participate in the monthly or semimonthly drawings of the company. Different-colored tickets are used on each line, and these are changed from day to day to avoid fraudulent use of the tickets. The lines about the city are divided into four sections. A prize of £30 is given to each of the three principal sections and £10 is given to the fourth. From among the numbers appearing on the tickets sold, as verified by the company's books, one is drawn for each line and the prize is awarded to the holder of that ticket. In case the prize is not claimed within four days after the drawing, all tickets sold on the day of the drawing on the line issuing the ticket that was not presented, whose last three numbers are the same as the last three of the winning ticket, are entitled to a prize of £1 each. This scheme is thought to encourage riding on the cars. In 1916 the total number of passengers carried was 28,500,000.

GREEK STEAMSHIPS MUST HAVE WIRELESS EQUIPMENT.

[Consul General Alexander W. Weddell, Athens, Nov. 3.]

By royal decree of October 8 (O. S.), 1917, all Greek passenger vessels of 300 or more tons dead-weight capacity and all cargo vessels of 1,000 or more tons dead-weight must be equipped with complete wireless installations of a radius of not less than 100 miles and an auxiliary installation of not less than 30 miles radius as soon as may be possible. After January 1-14, 1918, no Greek vessel falling within the divisions named above will be allowed to leave a Greek port unless fully equipped with wireless installation. Imprisonment up to three months and a fine of \$965 are provided as punishments for infractions of this rule.

The Royal Hellenic Government reserves the right to install in time of war wireless equipment on any vessels smaller than the minimum tonnage named above, in which case the vessel must supply electricity in sufficient quantity for the operation of the wireless outfit. Such installation is to be subject to removal at any time at which the Government may see fit so to do. Operators on all vessels for the duration of the war will be supplied by the Government from members of the Royal Hellenic Navy. The ship must provide food and lodging, and the captain will pay salaries to be charged to the Government. In case vessels are unable to procure equipment they will be aided by the Government.

Many industrial companies outbreak of the war, many numerous works already modern plants installed.

Growth of Chemical Industry.

In the number of establishments in first place in recent development have been formed with a combination of normal exchange rate, the companies operate 28 factories producing sulphate of ammonia, potash, powder, niter, sulphate of soda, phosgene, sodium chloride, soda ash, acids, nitric acid, glycerin, phosphorus, etc. About 80 per cent of the production of potassium chloride is on hand and prices have fallen. The market is greatly overstocked in Japan but the output is increasing. One company is producing soda ash, the first firm in Japan to do so. Another company is manufacturing exclusively, while direct export trade. This company is being developed. The company claims the production of goods formerly imported from Germany.

Iron and Steel.

Although the iron industry has made promise of assuming considerable importance since the war the annual production of iron, this being about one-third of the pre-war level, has started several new companies. Six companies, with a total capital of 100 million yen, have established new works.

Three new steel companies have been established. Their new works have been estimated at 5,000,000 yen. They produce shafts, railway wheels, and other heavy machinery. They have received orders from the government and the intention of this company is to trade rather than to the domestic market.

Zinc, Aluminum, and Lead.

It is generally conceded that Japan is good and that a large amount of work is being done. One company is already producing Japanese zinc ore containing 90 per cent zinc and copper, and the refining process is being completed.

works for the treatment of Japanese zinc ore and have a total combined capital of 7,600,000 yen.

In March, 1916, a company was formed with a capital of 1,000,000 yen for the manufacture of aluminum. It is stated that the process to be used is different from that in vogue in Europe and the United States. The aluminum is obtained from a clay that is a product especially of Japan and is treated by an electrolytic process.

A company was formed in January, 1917, with a capital of 100,000 yen to produce sheet lead for the use of chemical industries. Sheets are being turned out measuring 10 by 4 feet, and it is claimed that they are superior to any that have hitherto been manufactured in Japan.

Metal Goods and Machinery—Electrical Supplies and Accessories.

A company which was first established in 1913 for the manufacture of galvanized iron sheets and galvanized iron wire has increased its capital from 300,000 yen to 700,000 yen. Up to the present its output has been confined to the home market, but it intends to export its products later. Two companies, with a combined capital of 1,500,000 yen, have been formed to manufacture wire netting.

Three new companies, with a combined capital of 2,300,000 yen, have been established for the manufacture of machinery. In addition to munitions, rotary printing machines, etc., and gun metal are being manufactured.

There have been formed during the period under review six companies for the manufacture of electrical supplies and accessories, such as electric motors, dynamos, switches, lamp bulbs, carbon electrodes, carbon brushes, etc. Their total combined capital is 4,530,000 yen, and they operate 11 factories. An improved process for the manufacture of micanite has enabled a Japanese company to turn out insulators for both the domestic and export trade.

Development of Textile Industry.

Rapid progress has been made in the Japanese textile trade since the war. Many new companies have been organized; many are controlling new works; and new works are under construction. Details have been furnished regarding 11 new companies formed for the manufacture of textiles. They have a total combined capital of 16,600,000 yen and operate 14 factories. Some are operating general spinning mills for the manufacture of cotton and woollen textiles. One produces linen thread; one mixed silk and wool textiles; one is devoted to the finishing of silk textile goods for the export trade, and one makes hemp rope. The factory making linen thread is experimenting with a plant growing wild in Saghalien, treating the fibers by a patent bleaching process. The spinning of mixed silk and wool at first presented many difficulties, but these have been overcome, and the company, in addition to supplying the home demand, hopes to handle export trade. A company has been established for the purpose of ramie spinning. Although ramie fiber is a product of Japan and China, previous to the war it was not produced locally but was imported from the United Kingdom, the United States, and Germany.

For the manufacture of formed with a combined capital of 16,450,000 yen, for the production of zinc and house paints, paint, rust-preventing paints, and successfully producing zinc powder. Previous to the war paint factory was formed from the United Kingdom.

Six companies have been formed with a combined capital of 16,450,000 yen, for the production of zinc and house paints, paint, rust-preventing paints, and successfully producing zinc powder. Previous to the war paint factory was formed from the United Kingdom.

There have been organized companies with a combined capital of 1,550,000 yen for the production of coke in large quantities. In addition, a company with a capital of 120,000 yen for the production of process is used in refining the

As a result of the war the marine insurance business companies have extended their operations. Among the new marine insurance companies combined capital of 17,000,000 yen.

Other New Companies.

A company with a capital of 1,000,000 yen for the manufacture of rubber bicycles has been established. It is intensively, so it is expected that to manufacture and repair has been organized for the turn out eventually slipper goods. A company (2,000,000 yen) for the manufacture of imitation celluloid to be used as a substitute for besides serving the same purpose as a water and heat resistant material used in bean cake it will be possible to supply the real article. A company formed to produce plate glass factory. Two companies for the manufacture of bricks and concrete buildings and telegraph poles.

A company (500,000 yen) for the manufacture of corks and at present a company was formed in Japan to manufacture explosives as well as military needs. and has been granted special

A trading company has been formed to assist in port trade with the Japanese has been formed to assist in sessions and to other countries.

In spite of many unfavorable conditions the postal business of China in 1916 showed as a whole substantial increases and in certain cases surpassed expectations.

In 1914 there were 212,115,297 articles posted; in 1915, 226,801,928 articles; and in 1916, 250,432,273 articles. The 1916 figure represents an increase of about 100 per cent in the last five years and about 10 per cent over 1915.

Increase in Number of Offices—Express Letter Service.

The number of post offices, including agencies, was 8,324 in 1914, 8,510 in 1915, and 8,797 in 1916. The increase was chiefly in the number of agencies, as practically all the cities of importance already have offices, and the aim now is to extend postal facilities to smaller towns and villages.

The express-letter service showed a healthy increase in spite of the fact that from February 1 the ordinary rate of postage was made payable in addition to the former express fee of 10 cents Mexican, or about 5 cents gold. The insured-letter service showed a slow but steady growth.

Parcel Post—Growth of Money-Order Service.

The domestic parcel tariff was revised from February 1; the former system of uniform rates, regardless of the destination and distance, was discontinued and a new system of single, double, and treble rates based on the destination and routes followed was adopted. The number of parcels posted in 1914 was 1,662,326; in 1915, 2,033,323; and in 1916, 2,232,100, or an increase of about 10 per cent over 1915, in spite of the revision of the tariff. A parcel convention, which was signed during the year, providing for a direct exchange of parcels with the United States came into effect on August 1.

On account of the collapse of banking facilities in many districts the post office was the only safe means of transmitting funds, with the result that the money-order business became brisk. The amount issued in 1916 was \$8,517,760, compared with \$3,401,910 in 1915 and \$5,225,240 in 1914. [The rates of exchange for the Mexican dollar were 43.6 cents in 1914, 39.86 cents in 1915, and 53.35 cents in 1916.]

Length of Postal Lines—Surplus in Administration.

The length of the lines of postal communication in 1915 was about 164,200 miles and in 1916 about 168,200 miles, the latter figure including about 140,300 miles of courier lines, 21,600 miles of steamer and boat lines, and 6,300 miles of rail lines. The increase was made in spite of the fact that in a large part of the country lines of communication, rail and water, were interrupted by disturbances.

For the second time in its history the postal administration paid for itself and returned a surplus. In 1916 this surplus amounted to \$333,696 and in 1915 to \$95,152, against a deficit in 1914 of \$34,629. Consequently, if nothing unforeseen happens, the Chinese postal administration, although it claims to have the cheapest tariff in the world, may be considered self-supporting. Should this surplus con-

improvements, such as the e
the provision for launches,
employees.

THREE MONTHS' EXPORTS

[Consul Charles

There was a considerable
Jamaica during the three
pared with the correspondi
exports of bananas was due
gathered before the hurrica
cane which occurred earlier
Shipments of sugar decrea
consumption and partly bea
ties. The following table g
their value, during the th
and 1917:

Articles.	July-Sept
	1916
Annatto.....	\$17,903
Cigars.....	51,789
Cocoa.....	211,415
Coffee.....	94,522
Fruit:	
Bananas.....	464,274
Coconuts.....	183,748
Grapes.....	14,643
Oranges.....	25,855
Ginger.....	22,143
Hides.....	42,689
Honey.....	43,511
Kola nuts.....	15,358

GROCERY CATALOG

[Consul Felix S. S. Jol

American canned corn a
and imported into Canada
will be a reasonable margin
sumer will be as low for t
Two-pound tins of corn a
they can be secured by th
would enable these lines to
corn is selling at \$0.23 per
\$0.25 per 2½-pound tin.

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tioned by local importers.
hardly a day has passed
Catalogues in this instanc
be appreciated.

The foundation of the wealth of the Biscayan Provinces of Spain lies in the large deposits of high-grade iron ores for which the section is famous. Easily mined, close to tidewater, and handled with cheap labor, these deposits have been immensely profitable, with the result that Bilbao, which is the center of the industry, is reputed to be the wealthiest city of its size in Europe.

The deposits are distributed by Provinces as follows: Producing—Guipuzcoa, 92 acres; Vizcaya, 2,184; Santander, 709; total, 2,985 acres; nonproducing—Alava, 1,525 acres; Burgos, 3,248; Guipuzcoa, 7,594; Vizcaya, 13,163; Santander, 13,483; total, 39,013 acres.

Affected by Transportation Handicaps.

Many of the undeveloped properties remain so because the difficulties of transportation, even for a short distance, make competition with the properties lying on the immediate seacoast practically impossible. As the latter become exhausted, the former will become available, insuring an ample supply of the raw material for many years to come. An engineer's estimate of the supply in sight is as follows, in metric tons: Vizcaya Province, 60,000,000; Guipuzcoa and Navarro, 10,000,000; and Santander, 30,000,000. His estimate include also the Province of Leon, with a calculated supply in sight of 300,000,000 metric tons. Geographically this would be tributary to the industries of Bilbao and Santander.

Purchases by Foreign Countries.

Bilbao "Rubio" is celebrated in all the ore markets of the world for its tractability, having a remarkably small percentage of phosphorus. Its principal market is in the United Kingdom, which, with the local industries, takes the bulk of the production. The ores which ran high in phosphorus hitherto have gone to Germany, but since 1914 this market has been closed. A few cargoes of roasted carbonates have gone to the United States, but the quantity is insignificant.

The Official Chamber of Commerce of Bilbao gives the following statistics on production for the Province of Vizcaya, in metric tons: In 1913, 3,910,878; in 1914, 3,034,628; in 1915, 2,778,580; in 1916, 3,238,022. Its statement of exports is: In 1913, 2,999,092; in 1914, 2,266,639; in 1915, 2,240,064; and in 1916, 2,613,489. Those for Santander and Castro Urdiales in 1916 were, respectively, 865,335 and 445,207. The base price has averaged 25 pesetas per metric ton during 1917, equivalent to \$5.80 at the present rate of exchange.

Detailed Report of Production of Plants.

The products of the principal plants in Bilbao in 1916, in metric tons, were: Sociedad Anónima, Altos Hornos de Vizcaya—metallurgical coke, 328,144 tons; tar, 13,511; sulphate of ammonia, 4,590; pig iron, 274,308; steel rails, 29,364; sheets and plates, 32,916; girders, 8,961; galvanized sheets, 967; large and small flat bars, 108,393; merchant iron and steel bars, 92,359; and tin plates, 10,688; besides 389,542 pieces of buckets and tubs.

Compañía Anónima Basconia—steel ingots, 42,577 tons; tin-plate bars, 18,675; steel rods, 12,950; merchant bars, 2,829; wire rods, 8,732;

According to an estimate of the Service de Oléiculture, the 1917 olive crop in France will probably be the largest obtained in the last 20 years and should amount to about 174,000 metric tons of olives, yielding approximately 8,000,000 gallons of edible oil and 65,000 metric tons of oilcake. [Metric ton=2,204.6 pounds.] The cake still contains in the neighborhood of 10 per cent of oil, which is mostly used for industrial purposes, but an important proportion of this oil has in late years been chemically treated and converted into an edible product.

There are at the present time about 14,000,000 olive trees in France, covering an area of 110,000 hectares (271,815 acres). The normal crop is estimated at 125,000 metric tons of olives. This year's estimate is therefore nearly 50,000 tons in excess of the normal yield. It is also practically five times larger than last year's crop.

In view of the prevailing scarcity of vegetable oils the anticipated results of this crop are held to be most satisfactory. On the other hand the growers fear that the available labor supply will not be sufficient to gather all the fruit and that a large quantity will therefore be lost. Soldiers on special leave and school children are assisting in the harvest, but additional help appears to be required, and the French military authorities have been requested to place colonial laborers at the disposal of the growers. Prior to the war Italian laborers were employed to a considerable extent for this purpose, but comparatively few of these immigrants are available now. The matter is one of great importance, as the olives must be crushed soon after harvesting in order to obtain a good grade of oil.

[Consul William Dulany Hunter, Nice, Nov. 27.]

Outlook for 1918 Crop in Nice District.

The outlook for the olive crop in the Maritime-Alps for the spring of 1918 is reported from the different olive-growing centers of the Nice district as more favorable than for many years. Some growers even state that for over 20 years they have not seen such abundance of fruit on the olive trees. It is said that the young olives are exceptionally healthy this season, and, therefore, more resistant to unfavorable weather conditions, but a forecast made so long in advance is liable to unforeseen changes. Most of the olive orchards in this territory are situated in the mountainous district, where, during the winter months, the temperature is likely to fall below zero and snowstorms sometimes occur; and although the olive can stand low temperatures, it can not stand lasting frost, and therefore the winter months are often very injurious to the olive crop.

Siam Accepts Tenders for Draglines.

Vice Consul Carl C. Hansen reports from Bangkok, Siam, under date of November 2, that a contract for the supply of two draglines to have 3½ cubic-yard buckets and 70-foot booms has been awarded to an American firm that tendered through local agents in Bangkok. [A notice of the tender was published in **COMMERCE REPORTS** for July 14, 1917.]

The Mediterranean fruit fly has wrought practically the whole extent of working havoc among orchards attacked the orange, the tangerine and the pear. The damage inflicted is as high as 80 per cent.

The insect did not appear until that the fruit would escape. It appeared in great force in September and worked up to the present. This is the first time in 10 years since 1917.]

The ravages of the fly will seriously affect the export trade of the district, for of course it goes into the export trade, being chiefly to the United States. The important fruit crops will be lost to the markets, especially now when

AMERICAN CIGARETTE-FACTORY

[Consul Arthur]

Two American cigarette-factories have been placed in operation in this district. American machinery has been introduced with success.

Before the war Germany was producing such equipment. In the East the product was a close imitation.

The tobacco industry is one of the important of 1915, 35,000,000 packages of tobacco for domestic consumption and 66,000,000 for French Indo-China. The production was from 593 metric tons in 1901 to 1,100 in 1915, therefore, offers a quite extensive

SECOND FORECAST

[Indian (Government)]

This forecast is based upon the reports which contain, on an average, 100,000 metric tons of sesame in British India. The estimates for the "mixed" crop of the late crop of Bengal. The forecast published in January, will include the total area so far reported.

The total area so far reported is 2,756,000 acres, as against 3,000,000 acres in the same time last year, or a decrease of 244,000 acres.

The present condition of the crop is from fair to good, except in the Bombay region where the crop has suffered from storms.

In the search for a suitable domestic motor fuel as a substitute for imported gasoline the claims of alcohol have received increased attention recently in this country. The possibilities of alcohol have long been recognized by many persons, but heretofore little attempt has been made to encourage its use, and engineering firms have displayed little interest in developing a type of engine especially designed to employ alcohol as fuel. There was no demand for such an article, largely because many restrictions had been placed on the use of alcohol for industrial purposes or as a motor fuel. The war, however, has demonstrated to the people of England how necessary it is for them to develop their own resources as far as possible, in order to become less dependent upon oversea commodities.

Alcohol May Offer Solution.

There is a strong belief that alcohol may offer a solution to this important problem provided it can be produced at a low price and in adequate quantities. For a long time the advocates of domestic fuel alcohol have been urging that through potatoes lay the way to eliminate the national dependence upon imported motor spirit, and recently the minister of agriculture announced in Parliament that "there are plans for using potatoes for industrial alcohol, and if the crop proves to be so large that, without risk to the food supply, they can be used for that purpose, we shall find a most valuable source of motive power in this country homemade."

It has been known for some months that investigations were being made in Ireland at the instance of the fuel research board and department of agriculture as to the possibilities there for the production of alcohol. It is, however, so vitally important in the manufacture of high explosives that no supplies are possible for private motorists until after the war.

Facilities for Research Work.

As the Government has now admitted the claims of alcohol as a national fuel, it is thought that facilities will be offered to carry out research work with a view to evolving types of alcohol engines that can be marketed soon after the close of the war, when the present demand for alcohol shall have ceased and there will be obtainable at once a plentiful supply for all available alcohol engines, the fuel supply expanding in direct proportion to the engine output.

It has been thoroughly demonstrated that coal-gas traction is a practical and economical proposition, and a constantly increasing number of motorists are adopting it as a practical way out of the present gasoline difficulty.

Very stringent restrictions on the use of motor spirit came into operation on November 1, 1917, in effect totally prohibiting the use of motor cars or motorcycles for what may be termed pleasure purposes when gasoline or gasoline substitutes supply the motive power. For many motorists, therefore, coal gas offers the only solution of the problem, as electrical vehicles for the time being are unobtainable.

Use of Coal Gas Widely Discussed.

An important exhibition of all classes of vehicles running on coal gas was held recently in London, and at a meeting of those interested

coal gas as motor fuel we pointed petrol-economy of meeting were of particular of coal gas in motors was a development " of lasting that the new restrictions w to all other gasoline substit it would be taxed after the be available for the upkee gasoline tax would necessa more popular.

Tire Manufacturers Produce Co

The Government under be compressed in steel cyli
• preparing to place on the r usually employed in moto about 4 feet 6 inches long b 60 pounds, and will hold It is intended that they sh car.

Manchester was the first fuel and to make special a vehicles. The special indu at a rate of 81 cents per 1,0 ratus and charging station district. The price charg about 20 cents per gallon.

Similar steps have been Birmingham, where three various parts of the city by mittee anticipates that the all demands, and consequ which are engaged in ind take in supplies for the p

[Consul C. M. H

Solution of the Problem of Sto

In view of the many res the British Government a has been given to coal g months. The question of way of its application. T solving the difficulty in a

In the first experiments ders was employed, but on in breaking down the pre roof of the vehicle were circular in shape, of wov and held in position on the container was inflated wit the same material, and th rubber tube. A tap withi the use of the gas.

The circular container was soon discarded on account of its tendency when partly deflated to drop over the sides of the vehicle, and the wearing effect produced upon the fabric by the wind while the vehicle was in rapid motion. This led to the introduction of the D-shaped container, which is now in general use. The bottom is flat and securely fastened to the top of the vehicle by means of bolts and screws. On account of its shape it offers less resistance to the wind. It is fitted inside of a wooden box made of thin boards, which is braced with iron brackets. The box usually has a depth of $3\frac{1}{2}$ feet, but its length and width depend upon the size of the vehicle. The inside or bottom of the box is lined with heavy canvas, to which are applied several coats of thick oil paint and shellac in order to render it gas-tight.

Many different shapes of flexible containers have recently been put upon the market, but the one here described seems to be the most popular, and most generally in use in this section. Flexible containers, circular in shape and pointed at each end, are also being used on motor cycles with the side car attachment, and are giving general satisfaction.

Seeking Container of Permanent Value.

The chief objection to the flexible gas container is its bulky and somewhat unsightly appearance. It meets every requirement as a temporary expedient, but it would hardly become popular in peace times with gasoline selling at a reasonable price. There is every reason to believe, however, that a cylinder for holding compressed gas, made of rubber and canvas, or other suitable materials, which could be readily attached to the running board of the car, or carried underneath the car, would become popular, even in peace times, on account of the low price of gas.

It has been demonstrated that 250 cubic feet of gas is equivalent to 1 gallon of gasoline for motor power. The price of gas in Nottingham at present is 60 cents per 1,000 cubic feet, so that 250 cubic feet of gas (the equivalent of 1 gallon of gasoline) costs only 15 cents. When these figures are compared with the present price of gasoline in the United Kingdom—84 cents per gallon—it may readily be seen what a great saving is made by the use of coal gas.

There is little reason to believe that the price of gasoline will be much lower than it now is, at least for several years. That fact should encourage those who are endeavoring to perfect a satisfactory means of storing gas on motor vehicles. Many experiments are now being made by British manufacturers on cylinders for storing compressed gas. Two or three makes already have been placed upon the market, and some of them appear to be quite satisfactory.

Statement of Progress Made.

A recent address by Mr. W. M. Barrett at Manchester, before the Commercial Motor Users' Association, shows the progress that has been made. He stated in part:

I do not hold out any hopes of steel cylinders ever being universally adopted for the purpose of compressing coal gas for use on motor vehicles, and I believe the solution of the problem will be found in cylinders made of other metals than steel or composite rubber material. A new type of compressed gas container is the safe gas cylinder. This is made of a metal alloy known as dura-

The walls of the cylinders are in wound gun, and the cylinder its tube only of sufficient thickness to spirally two or more layers of h being in opposite directions, and ferrule, while the ends of the tul panding joint which acts as a s The disk ends are held together wires prevent the cylinder ends l the cylinder, and take the entire radial pressure is resisted by the terial in both cases can be corro no doubt that this is the most effi

Other Forms of Containers.

A cylinder made of a composit has recently been made and pass results.

Another cylinder on entirely no liner of sheet steel, around whi endless linen, or other strong th tion, layers of Chesterman's ste consist of disks held together wit of resisting axial and radial st with the layers of material alrea whole vulcanized together.

The chief problem to be so ders would be that of refilling exhausted, but if their use could be done by establishi tances. For the present the tricts where gas plants are a

[Consul General Thomas

Use of Kerosene Attachment.

At the request of the Am inventor of a kerosene attac that kerosene has been used automobile here, with no res cost of fuel.

It is stated further that burned out for about 18 mo ments, and that the machine miles a month.

The inventor finds that in quires a special arrangemen stallation should interfere v should be left intact and av poses, and otherwise as a n traffic.

OFFICES OF THE BUREAU OF

DISTRICT OFFICES.

NEW YORK: 784 Customhouse.
BOSTON: 1801 Customhouse.
CHICAGO: 504 Federal Building.
ST. LOUIS: 402 Third National Bank B
NEW ORLEANS: 1020 Hibernia Bank B
SAN FRANCISCO: 807 Customhouse.
SEATTLE: 848 Henry Building.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the Bureau and its district and cooperative offices. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and state opportunity number. The Bureau does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases. Symbols: * Reported by American consular officers; † Reported by commercial attachés and commercial agents; ‡ Direct inquiries received by the Bureau.

In considering the following "opportunities" special regard should be had to the laws and regulations governing export licenses and trading with the enemy.

Axles.....	26129	Hardware.....	26129
Bedsteads.....	26133	Ink.....	26123
Bicycles.....	26135	Machinery.....	26127
Bolts.....	26129	Marine motors.....	26131
Brick presses.....	26129	Nails.....	26129
Cables and ropes.....	26130	Paints and varnishes.....	26125, 26136
Cement.....	26125	Plywood and veneers.....	26126
Foodstuffs.....	26135	Shoes.....	26135
General merchandise.....	26128, 26132	Tools.....	26129
General representation.....	26134	Wall paper.....	26125

26125.†—A company in Brazil desires to be placed in communication with American manufacturers and exporters of printing ink, wall paper, cement, and mixed paints. Reference.

26126.*—A firm in England desires to purchase plywood in all thicknesses and qualities, sanded and unsanded, in birch, ash, oak, gum, whitewood, maple, poplar, etc.; and veneers free from knots. Quotations may be made f. o. b. New York. Payment will be made by cash against bankers' guaranty, New York. The plywood should be put up in crates or iron-bound.

26127.†—A man in Bolivia wishes to be put in touch with American manufacturers and exporters of machinery used in connection with the manufacture of Portland cement.

26128.†—A company in Brazil is in the market for general merchandise. Reference.

26129.*—A man in France desires to purchase all kinds of brick presses, axles, nails, bolts for machinery and building timber, all kinds of tools, and hardware. He also wishes to secure an agency for mechanical and metal implements or products. Payment will be made by cash on delivery. Correspondence should be in French. References.

26130.†—A firm in Spain desires to purchase galvanized steel construction cable 6 by 12 or 6 by 19 inches and in diameters of from 6 to 20 millimeters. Also galvanized steel trawling rope greased, 6 by 19 inches and in diameters of from 9 to 10 millimeters. Communications may be addressed to correspondent of the firm in the United States.

26131.*—A company in India wishes to buy marine motors. Catalogues and full information should be submitted. Cash will be paid. Correspondence may be in English. Reference.

26132.†—A business man in Brazil desires to be placed in communication with American manufacturers and exporters of general merchandise. Reference.

26133.*—A firm in China is in the market for iron and brass bedsteads of all grades. Payment will be made by 60 days' sight draft. Correspondence may be in English. References.

26134.*—A man in France desires to represent American manufacturers and exporters for the sale of their products in that country. He mentions no particular line. Correspondence should be in French. References.

26135.*—An agency is desired by a company in Switzerland for the sale of foodstuffs, shoes, bicycles, and other goods. Quotations may be made f. o. b. American port. Payment will be made by cash against documents or agency terms. Correspondence should be in French. References.

26136.*—A man in Portugal desires to secure an agency for the sale of paints and varnishes for ships and general woodwork. Quotations should be made f. o. b. New York, including commission. Duplicate samples should be submitted. Correspondence may be in English. References.

There was a large gathering on November 23 of the employers in the Dundee and district jute industry to consider an important representation from the War Contracts Department regarding the fixing of the price of jute goods, the supply of raw jute, and the restriction of the export trade. At the outset a report on the present position of the trade was submitted. The report stated that the Government was greatly concerned at the rapid rise of the prices of jute goods and considered it necessary, in the interests of consumers, that action should be taken to control prices. The matter was brought to the notice of Government officials by suppliers who had contracted for the delivery of foodstuffs, including the bags containing the same, at a fixed price, and who, owing to the rise of the cost of jute goods, were seriously handicapped not only as regards prices but also as regards delivery. The War Contracts Department stated that it had no plan to propose, as it desired, if possible, that suggestions should come from those engaged in the trade; but failing any acceptable scheme from that source Governmental action would be necessary.

The objects aimed at are the limitation of prices, the restriction of export trade, and the conservation of raw jute for national purposes in connection with the war. The War Contracts Department some time ago emphasized the absolute necessity for keeping the consumption of jute well within the limit of that of 1916. Returns made lately for 12 weeks showed that the consumption had increased by 11 per cent, whereas the wish of the department is that consumption should be 10 per cent less than in 1916, and it has intimated that steps must be taken to effect this reduction.

After discussion, the conference appointed a committee representative of all sections of the trade to consider the matter and submit a report to an early meeting.

ARGOLS AND WINE LEES IN GREECE.

[Consul General Alexander W. Weddell, Athens, Nov. 5.]

Although there are no factories in Greece devoted exclusively to the production of tartaric acid and other products of wine lees, the country produces enough for its own needs and exports a certain amount in normal times to Italy, France, England, and Australia. One large corporation devoted to the manufacture of soap, oleaginous products, and chemicals produces from wine lees an almost chemically pure cream of tartar sold to local confectioners for the manufacture of fine breads and cakes, and until the present paucity of tonnage exported some of its product to England and Australia.

During the past two years this same company has exported small quantities of tartrate of lime and wine lees to France and Italy. These lees are obtained from sediment in the tanks of the currant distilleries.

Owing to lack of transportation facilities there are at present about 2,000 tons of wine lees on hand in Greece, whose argol content is estimated at 20 to 60 per cent.

The Philippine pearl beds form a part of a vast pearl-bearing area that is said to extend from Mindanao to Borneo. The various grounds worked are centered about different islands of the archipelago lying in this region.

The gold-lip pearl oyster (*Margaritafera maxima* Jameson), known to commerce as the Sulu mother-of-pearl shell, is the species found throughout this region. It requires a warm shallow sea, from 1 to 70 fathoms deep, strong ocean currents, and water with a specific gravity of 1.02. Most of the prolific pearl beds are found where the bottom is a very fine sandy ooze, consisting chiefly of dead Foraminifera. These are usually covered with a short growth of eelgrass.

Location of Philippine Pearl Beds.

Mr. Alvin Seale, formerly fisheries expert of the Philippine Bureau of Science, who has made the most complete survey of the pearl beds of the Philippine waters that has yet been undertaken, for the purposes of his explorations, divided the region into 10 groups of pearl beds, which he thus describes in his report, published in the Philippine Journal of Science for July, 1916:

The Jolo pearl beds.—The Jolo beds include the following: Jolo, Marongas, Pangasinan, Hegad, Bubuan, Minis, Cabucan, Pantocounan, Bancungan, Tulayan, Capual, Bittinan, Dongdong, Pata, Patian, and Teomabal Islands and the banks and shoals and islets in the immediate vicinity of these islands. The most prolific sections of the Jolo pearl beds are the channels between the small islands directly north of Jolo and the Jolo channel proper. These beds have been fished constantly for over 100 years, and they still yield a fair return of shells. At the time of my inspection there were 24 pearling boats operating on these beds.

The Tapul pearl beds.—The Tapul pearl beds include the following islands and small islets and shoals adjacent to them: Tapul, Bolipongpong, Siasi, Lapac, Sirun, Sulade, and Tapaan. The channel between Lapac and Tapaan Islands and the region directly east of Tapul seemed to afford the best fishing on these beds. Twelve pearling boats were seen on the Tapul beds.

The Tawi Tawi pearl beds.—The Tawi Tawi pearl beds include the following: Tawi Tawi, Maialacat, Bubuan, Cacataan, Sigboye, Tambagaan, Simalac, Kuadbasang, Basbas, Tataan, Bongao, Simonor, Manuc-manca, South Ubian, Tabawan, Bintoulan, Kinapusan, Magpeos, and Tagao Islands, and the numerous small islands and reefs south of Tawi Tawi. These beds probably comprise the richest pearling grounds in the entire archipelago. Twenty-four Moro pearling vintas were seen operating their dredges on beds near Magpeos Island. No pearling luggars were seen. A number of the above islands have large Moro populations, which are regarded with considerable fear by the pearl-ers. On South Ubian Island alone I counted 200 Moro houses in the village. Many of these people are engaged in primitive pearl fishing.

The Sibutu pearl beds.—The Sibutu pearl beds include the islands, reefs, and shoals west of Sibutu Passage. These beds have not been properly prospected, and very little is definitely known about them. A few years ago some shells were discovered in the vicinity of Perdie Patches, and occasionally some pearl shells are brought into Sitanket by the Moros. In 1908 I prospected the large lagoon south of Sipanket, but without success. However, it is probable that some rich beds will eventually be located near Sibutu.

The Laparan pearl beds.—The Laparan pearl beds include the numerous small groups of islands which for the most part lie well northward in the Sulu Sea. These comprise the 20 or more islets known as the Pearl Bank Islands, also the following islands and the adjacent banks, islets, and reefs: Laparan, Doc Can, Deatobato, Cap, Sipang, Tubalubac, Damnil, Dasaan, Lahat-lahat, Bambannan, Mamanuc, Billangan, and Tagbabas. These beds still contain many pearl oysters, and they could sustain the operation of a large

anchored in 12 fathoms on the pearling boats were observed oper-

The Pangutarang pearl beds.—The lowing islands and the adjacent Pangutarang, North Ubian, Malic Kulassein, Tubigan, and Teombal covered in the Philippines was to Basbas Island. No pearling boats several Moro dredges were in oper-

The Pilas pearl beds.—The following intermediate waters constitute the gan, Mamannak, Pasigpasilan, Sal Pabunuan, Teinga, and Favorite took a vast number of shells from overfishing has been very slow. Pilas beds with but poor success.

The Samalcs pearl beds.—In the in the Samales, Taplantana, and islets, and shoals from Salupin Is. The principal islands are Manungu Parol, Tonquil, Bulan, Memad, D huan, Taplantana, Bubuan, Timu very prolific and are constantly within years some very rich patches of pearls.

The Basilan pearl beds.—The Basilan and adjacent islands of Malam Tengolan, Mataja, Odel, Telpono, Kauluan, Coco, Sibago, and Lauhi was exceptionally large during the pearling fleet has been operating.

The Mindanao pearl beds.—The Mindanao have not been well prospected of the well-known pearling ground is known regarding the Mindanao beds adjacent to the coast of Mind to subdivide it into smaller groups.

Present condition of the Pearl Beds

The Jolo pearl beds have been overfished more than any of the other beds expect to find them in an exhausted state. Shells of various sizes were found but actual diving operations will illustrate the condition.

On May 23, 1914, I was on board near the center of Jolo Channel, diver, a Filipino mestizo, made morning, in a depth of 17 fathoms secured; for the second dive, 7; and for 60 minutes of actual work.

On the average of 1 kilo (2.2 pounds) of shells are in good condition and there being many adult shells even are especially abundant in the several places near South Ubian.

There is a fair growth of young shells.

In the vicinity of Bongao some of these beds have quantities of young shells.

The Tapul beds have been fished to a good yield of shells and some valuable shells on these beds, but for diving.

The Pangutarang beds, being in many places been overfished, and found, very few either adult or young.

The Pilas beds also have been overfished. Shells are to be found. An entire

continue to give fair results for years to come. Large patches of dead shells have occasionally been found on these beds. They were probably buried and smothered in the sand during a storm and later uncovered by the currents or by a second storm.

The Basilan beds were the scene of great activity during July, 1914, a new bed, very rich in shells, having been discovered during May, 1914. However, it is a well-known fact that the Basilan shells are usually a little poorer in grade than shells from other beds, a condition probably due to the very soft bottom on which they grow. I have not yet been able to examine either the Basilan or Mindanao beds. However, I examined some valuable pearls taken from the Mindanao beds during 1914.

After dredging on the various pearl beds, recording many diving operations, and gathering information from numerous divers and owners, I have concluded that the pearl beds of the Department of Mindanao and Sulu are in no immediate danger of exhaustion. It would be advisable to rest the Pilas and possibly the Pangutarang beds for three or four years. However, I doubt if any regulation regarding the matter is necessary because the fishing does not pay expenses, and this will prevent fishing more effectually than any law.

The shallow-water beds in some cases have not been exhausted after over 100 years of fishing. The explanation of this lies in the fact that they are constantly supplied with young shells from the adjacent beds, "pockets," or mother shells, which have been overlooked or lie in water too deep for the divers. This I know to be the case in the Jolo beds, and no doubt it is true of the others. All of the pearl beds are surrounded by areas of deeper water, and many of the divers tell of seeing large quantities of shells in waters too deep to work. These and the overlooked pockets and scattered adult shells are the "mother shells," and from them are given off each season millions of young pearl oysters, which are carried by the tides and currents all over the waters of the Archipelago. Many settle on the shallow beds and keep a constant supply of oysters growing toward maturity. No doubt some are carried into great depths and lost, others are smothered in the sand or thrown ashore and die on the beach; but as each female oyster produces several million eggs each year, many survive, and in this manner the shallow-water beds are supplied continuously with shells. I believe that no amount of fishing with the present system of hand pumps, whereby the diver is limited to a depth of about 25 fathoms, will ever fully exhaust these beds. Probably the greatest danger to the Philippine pearl beds lies in the introduction of motor-driven diving equipment that will enable the deep-water beds to be fished.

Rotation in working the pearl beds would be a great advantage, as in this manner they would be more thoroughly prospected, and the old and wormy shells would be removed, thus giving a yield of clean, first-class shells every five or six years. But the revenues derived by the Government from this industry will not warrant the expenditure necessary to pay the patrol required to watch 10 great beds and prevent poaching. I believe that it would be expedient to divide the entire area into two parts, with the north and south dividing line passing through Jolo, 121° east longitude, and then alternately to close one-half of the entire area for six years. The dividing line could be watched from Jolo at small expense. This scheme would be to the advantage of both the Government and the pearlers, inasmuch as many more beds would be found, and after a period of 12 years the grade and therefore the price of the Philippine shells would be distinctly better.

I was unable to locate any particular place where the pearl beds had been excessively injured by natural enemies, such as rays, skates, and other fishes. However, on some of the beds, notably at Jolo and Pilas, there were numerous starfishes, and these undoubtedly devour many of the young oysters.

Output and Value of Shell and Pearls.

Extra data as to the output of the Philippine pearl-shell beds are not available. The annual yield of gold-lip pearl shells is probably between 300 and 400 tons, worth \$175,000 to \$200,000. A portion of these shells are exported in raw form; the remainder are made into buttons and other products in the factories of Manila. There are no figures concerning the yield of pearls. It is estimated by those best informed that approximately \$500,000 worth of pearls are marketed

and Sitanki. They are found wherever there is a good reef or a shore with large rocks, in water 1 to 4 fathoms deep. The animals occupying the shells are used by the fishermen for food. The heat applied in extracting the animals spoils the shells. The approved method of cleaning the shells is to bury them in the sand for a month. The top shell is valued at \$14 per picul and the turban shell at about \$13 per picul. Approximately 250 tons of the top shells and 65 tons of the turban shells are exported annually. The turban shell is also known as the green snail. Most of the shells of these classes are sent direct from Philippine ports to Singapore, where they are reshipped to other markets.

In recent years there has been an increased demand for these shells in Japan. The local demand has been increased also by the establishment of a second large button factory in Manila. One of these factories has 39 cutting machines capable of turning out 1,000 gross button slugs per day. The other factory has a slightly smaller capacity.

Exports of Shells and Buttons—Prosperity of Button Factories.

During the first six months of 1917 the exports of shells of various kinds from the Philippine Islands were as follows: Black-lip pearl, 5 tons, worth \$1,123; golden-lip pearl, 156 tons, worth \$68,305; turban (green snail), 43 tons, worth \$11,245; trocha (top), 9 tons, worth \$2,079; total, 213 tons, worth \$82,752. During the same period pearl buttons to the amount of 163,068 gross, valued at \$55,915, were exported. All buttons exported are classified under this head.

Both button factories report prosperous conditions. As the demand for their product increases, these factories are finding it hard to get all the shells needed. The demand made by Japan for Philippine shells is felt. Aside from the matter of prices paid for shells, the fact that a large proportion of the shell fishers are Japanese weighs in favor of the Japanese market.

Japanese Predominance in Pearling Industry—Cost of Operating Boat.

Over half of the vessels in the Philippine pearling fleet are owned or controlled by the Japanese. The latest available list of vessels fishing on the Philippine beds shows a total of 73 vessels. This list was compiled by Mr. Alvin Seale, then fisheries expert for the Bureau of Science, in 1914. It was made up of partial official lists and included some vessels actually fishing without any official recognition or license. Few changes have occurred in the fleet since that date, so that the list is substantially correct at present.

The cost of operating a pearling boat in Philippine waters is said to vary from \$125 to \$275 per month. This operating expense is divided among the following items:

Items.	Per month.	Per year.	Items.	Per month.	Per year.
5 sailors, at \$8.50 per month.....	\$42.50	\$510	2 pipes.....	\$5.83	\$70
1 tender.....	20.00	240	Lost anchors and chains.....	8.33	100
1 diver (besides 8 per cent of shells taken by him).....	10.00	120	1 coil rope.....	3.75	45
License, at \$8.33 per month.....	8.33	100	Half cost of sails.....	6.25	75
Subsistence.....	32.50	390	Interest, 10 per cent on \$2,500.....	20.83	250
Overhead expenses.....	70.00	840	Depreciation, 5 per cent.....	10.41	125
4 dresses.....	15.00	180	Total.....	253.73	3,045

Most of the divers are Japanese, owing to inexperience them. The figures for 1913 show a months of 1914 the record was not available, but the instance

The divers are paid \$10 to the shells taken by them. In for shells in addition to each shell; still others allow and 10 per cent for pearls, but allow 7 to 12 per cent of the The operators allow all divers cents to \$200.

Most of the equipment employed the boats are rigged with have been equipped with the Hink the cost of operation in proper seem to give entire satisfaction The cost of operating boats \$185 per month. The value operated ranges from \$1,000 to

The following table shows boats on the beds:

Name.	Built.
Takachiu.....	Zamboanga, 1913.....
Rosario.....	do.....
Kili.....	do.....
Marie N.....	do.....
Cagnyan.....	do.....
Albay.....	do.....
Paragua.....	do.....
Happy.....	Zamboanga, 1914.....
Dalshe.....	Jolo, 1912.....

Australian Interest in Philippine

An experienced Australian beds not long ago is quoted observations that the Philippine on their operations, and as new boats on the fields on be

The old pearling law, known of the Moro Province, is believed to maintain control of Philippine said to have been that it protects a species of shell that is not provided no protection for the real Philippine oyster.

Pearling Law of 1916.

Great benefit is expected Legislature, enacted February reforms. The provisions of

SECTION 1. Marine Mollusca, and restriction from any open bed, shellfish in Philippine waters

open bed, bank, or place by means of any device whatever. The taking of marine Mollusca in Philippine waters under other conditions may be lawfully conducted only under license or permit issued in conformity with the provisions of this act and subject to restriction and regulation as hereinafter provided.

SEC. 2. Licenses for taking marine Mollusca, or the shells of such, shall be issued and the license fees collected by the Collector of Internal Revenue or his deputies, to run for the remainder of the calendar year following the date of issuance. Fees derived therefrom shall accrue to the provincial treasury of the Province where the same are collected. During the vitality of such license the holder may take marine Mollusca anywhere in Philippine waters.

SEC. 3. A license, to be known as the pearling-boat license, may upon payment of the proper fee be issued to any vessel whose registration or ownership is such as is prescribed for vessels engaging in the Philippine coastwise trade.

A pearling-boat license shall not be issued to any vessels owned or operated in whole or in part by a person who has been twice convicted of violating provisions of this act.

SEC. 4. The Secretary of the Interior shall from time to time prescribe the fee to be paid for the pearling-boat license, or a scale of fees graduated according to the character or capacity of the vessels to be licensed, and shall announce the same in an order which shall be published at least 60 days before becoming effective. Such fee shall in no case be in excess of 400 pesos per annum, and may be paid quarterly in advance, in the manner prescribed for, and subject to the same penalties for delinquency as fixed internal-revenue taxes under Act No. 2339.

SEC. 5. A license, to be known as the first-class shell-diver's license, authorizing the holder to use submarine armor in taking marine Mollusca in Philippine waters, may be issued by the Collector of Internal Revenue or his deputies to any person upon the payment of the required fee.

A first-class shell-diver's license shall not be issued to any person who has been twice convicted of violating provisions of this act.

SEC. 6. The fee for this license shall be 10 pesos per annum, payable in advance.

SEC. 7. It shall be unlawful for any vessel holding a pearling-boat license to employ any unlicensed diver.

SEC. 8. Every licensed vessel shall keep a record of the number of shells taken each day. Such record shall be examined and verified by the collector of customs or by any internal-revenue officer at any port where the owner or master of the vessel may desire to ship, sell, or otherwise dispose of the shells aboard; and no owner or master of any vessel shall discharge shells or otherwise dispose of the shells aboard without inspection by such officer. When the shells have been inspected, the officer shall note the fact in the vessel's log or record book.

SEC. 9. No person employed on a boat engaged in pearl fishing shall open any shell of the pearl oyster of the species *Margaritifera maxima* without the permission of the owner or lessee of the boat.

SEC. 10. When in his opinion the public interest shall so require, the Secretary of the Interior may, by public order, close, either absolutely or qualifiedly, any bed, bank, shell field, or other breeding place for shellfish in Philippine waters, for any period not exceeding five years. During such closure it shall be unlawful for any person to take therefrom marine Mollusca, or the shells of such, or any prohibited class or to fish for the same therein contrary to the terms of such order.

SEC. 11. The Secretary of the Interior shall fix minimum sizes for the shells which may be taken in Philippine waters of any or all of the following species, to wit: *Margaritifera maxima*, commonly known as the gold-lip pearl shell, or "concha blanca"; *Trochus niloticus* Linn., commonly known as the "Simong," or "trocha"; *Turbo marmoratus* Linn., commonly known as the "bolalo," or "turban shell"; *Margaritifera margaritifera* Linn., commonly known as the black-lip pearl shell, or "concha negra." After such restriction shall have been imposed, it shall be unlawful for any person to take, sell, transfer, or have in possession for any purpose any shell or valve of a smaller size than the minimum prescribed for the particular species; but if any such shell should be removed from the water through accident or in ignorance of its size, no penalty shall be imposed if it be returned to the water immediately without being opened.

There was at one time, before the days of plantation rubber in the Malay Peninsula, considerable interest shown in the cultivation of coffee, but, as with nearly all the local products, coffee growing has of late years given way to the more profitable rubber industry.

It seems that formerly much British capital was invested in coffee plantations in the Peninsula, when it was considered fairly profitable at prices ranging around \$25 Straits currency per picul (133½ pounds), the cost of production being about \$15 per picul, with the Straits dollar then worth about \$0.87 gold. The industry was adversely affected when, after the boom (1893-1899) had raised prices to 50 per cent above their former level, prices suddenly fell to a figure at which coffee could not profitably be grown. Prices later rallied, and in 1905 coffee was in good demand at \$30 Straits currency per picul, while now it has gotten up as high as \$45 per picul. [The U. S. Treasury rate for the Straits dollar in October, 1917, was \$0.5678.]

Best Returns from Lowlands—Catch Crops.

Little correct information was available to planters in the early days as to the proper methods of cultivating the coffee plant. Cultural practices carried on in Ceylon, where many varieties of coffee other than *Liberica* were grown, were applied to this variety in the Malay Peninsula with unfortunate results. Coffee was in many cases planted on unsuitable soils which soon became greatly impoverished by the erosion of heavy rains washing the top soil from the high ground into the ravines, such soils in many cases being incapable of bearing average crops after a few years without the aid of fertilizers. The best crops recorded were from lowlands of a peaty nature, and practically all of the coffee grown in the Peninsula to-day comes from such soils.

Liberian coffee (*Coffea liberica*) is now grown to a small extent as a catch crop on rubber plantations, the latest returns indicating an acreage of something like 2,300, most of which is interplanted with rubber or coconuts. One well-known company is said to have paid quite a good dividend for several years from coffee planted as a catch crop. There is a tendency, however, for the catch crop to interfere materially with the principal crop, since it takes three years for coffee trees to bear and, in the case of interplanting with rubber, they do not come into full bearing until about the time the rubber trees should begin to produce. The planter naturally hesitates to cut out his coffee trees just when they are beginning to be profitable—a situation often resulting in delay in eliminating the catch crop, with consequent detriment to the more important one.

Cultural Methods—Diseases and Pests.

Planting methods in Malaya are much the same as in Java and Sumatra, although there appears to be some difference of opinion on questions of topping, spacing, seed culture, etc. Where the policy of topping at 5½ feet is followed, it is generally considered that the distance for planting may reasonably be 15 by 15 feet or 12 by 20 feet, the former giving nearly 200 trees to the acre and the latter

Italian ministerial decrees have been issued fixing maximum prices for olive oil, white crystallized sugar, national boots and shoes, and sulphate of copper. The decree relating to sugar was published in the Official Gazette on October 29, 1917, that relating to olive oil on October 25, and the two others on October 24.

The maximum wholesale base prices for olive oil are fixed in the following amounts: For oil of the first quality, extra, 350 lire per quintal (lira=19.3 cents at normal rate of exchange; quintal=220.46 pounds); for second quality, 330 lire; for third quality, 310 lire. These prices are intended for goods delivered free station of departure, casks not included, to be returned or charged to purchaser. For common or fuel oils, destined for refinement, proportionally lower prices must be asked than for those of the third quality, according to the grade of acidity of the oils themselves.

The prefects, having heard the provincial commission for consumption, will determine the maximum wholesale base prices in the various Provinces, the maximum prices for seed or mixed oils, and the sale prices for wholesalers, allowing in their favor an increase not exceeding 5 per cent of the prices. In Provinces which are principally importers, prefects may allow a further increase, comprising all actual expenses of transportation in a round sum not exceeding 15 lire per quintal. They will also establish the maximum limit within which the communal authorities must fix the retail prices in the respective communes. In no case can such price exceed 4.50 lire per kilo, including the eventual communal duty.

Sales of White Crystallized Sugar.

The maximum price at which Italian sugar factories and refineries can sell sugar for consumption in the Kingdom is fixed at 120 lire per quintal for white crystallized, f. o. b. station of departure, in addition to the amount of tax for manufacture and of the relative extra tax in the measure established by a decree of May 13, 1917. All the communes of the Kingdom must modify the maximum prices established for the sale of sugars in the respective communes under a decree of October 18, 1916. The present regulation does not apply to State sugar (containing saccharine).

National Boots and Shoes.

The maximum sale prices to the public of national boots and shoes in boxes, made from leather and hides assigned by the ministry of industry, commerce and labor, and made according to the rules imparted by it, net cash, are:

For men: Shoes, derby, 30 lire; low shoes, derby, 28.50 lire.

For women: Laced or buttoned shoes, 26.50 lire; low shoes, derby (Blake), 22 lire; low shoes, pegged or reversible, 19.50 lire.

For youths: Shoes, derby, 36-37, 21 lire; 38-39, 23 lire.

For boys: Shoes, derby, 28-29, 14.50 lire; 30-31, 15.50 lire; 32-33, 17 lire; 34-35, 18 lire.

For girls: Laced or buttoned shoes, 28-29, 15 lire; 30-31, 16 lire; 32-33, 17.50 lire; 34-35, 18.50 lire.

For young children: Laced or buttoned shoes, 16-18, 10 lire; low shoes, 16-18, 8 lire; laced or buttoned shoes, 19-15, 5.50 lire; 16-17,

tive offices. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and state opportunity number. The Bureau does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases. Symbols: * Reported by American consular officers; † Reported by commercial attachés and commercial agents; ‡ Direct inquiries received by the Bureau.

In considering the following "opportunities" special regard should be had to the laws and regulations governing export licenses and trading with the enemy.

Canned goods.....	26140	Machinery.....	26138, 26139
Cereals.....	26140	Novelties.....	26141
Condensed milk.....	26143	Sheet iron.....	26144
Corn starch.....	26140	Sporting goods.....	26143
Furniture.....	26141	Steel pins.....	26137
Leather.....	26146	Typewriters.....	26142

26137.*—A company in England desires to purchase for export to India steel card and gill pins used in textile weaving, similar in shape to a gramophone needle but made to specified sizes and gauges. Quotations may be made f. o. b. New York. Payment will be made by cash against shipping documents. Reference.

26138.*—A man in Italy wishes to buy machinery for making copper pipes 1 to 5 millimeters thick, round or elliptical section, in variable lengths averaging 30 inches. Freight rate to Genoa will have to be given when submitting quotations. Cash will be paid. Correspondence should be in Italian. Reference.

26139.*—A foreign Government desires to purchase a testing machine for wood and stone, equipped with its own motor for gasoline or crude oil consumption, also with an alternative proposition for connection with electric power from a central plant. It is willing to pay from \$3,000 to \$5,000 gold for such a machine. Quotations should be made f. o. b. New York or New Orleans. Payment will be made by cash against documents. Correspondence may be in English.

26140.*—A firm in India is in the market for canned provisions of all kinds, including fish; also cereals and corn starch in large quantities. Payment will be made against documents, if desired. Correspondence may be in English.

26141.*—A firm in England desires to purchase household furniture and novelties. Quotations should be made f. o. b. port of shipment. Reference. Catalogues and price lists should be submitted.

26142.*—An agency is desired by a company in Ceylon for the sale of typewriters. Payment will be made against documents at destination upon arrival of goods. Correspondence may be in English. The typewriters should be packed in strong wooden cases. References.

26143.*—A company in England desires to purchase full cream and skimmed sweetened condensed milk and unsweetened condensed milk as above. Quotations should be made f. o. b. Atlantic seaboard. Payment will be made by cash against rail receipts Atlantic shipping port or 30 days sight draft on recognized buyers in Great Britain. The company desires to get in touch with actual canners only, and not with dealers or agents.

26144.*—An agency is desired by a firm in Norway for the sale of galvanized sheet iron and black sheet iron. Quotations should be made f. o. b. New York. Payment will be made by cash against documents. Correspondence may be in English. References.

26145.*—A firm in Tasmania desires to purchase billiard tables, cues, cloths, etc.; tennis, croquet, football, hockey, and golf goods; running shoes; boxing gloves; punch balls; bicycles; kettle and brass drums and fifes; white rubber-soled shoes; chest expanders and developers; lacrosse goods; miniature rifles, and gut for tennis racquets. Quotations should be made f. o. b. New York. References.

26146.*—An agency is desired by a man in Portugal for the sale of leather for all purposes. Quotations should be made f. o. b. New York, including commission. Duplicate samples should be submitted. Correspondence may be in English. References.



No. 301 Washington, D. C.

Forecast of Greek olive and olive oil supplies	1
British export embargo changes	1
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Department of Commerce changes its hours of service	11
Successful winter trip to the Seal Islands	115

FORECAST OF GREEK OLIV.

[Cablegram from the A

Forecast of crops in the Patra pounds; olives for export, 4,000,000 of oil, 24 cents per pound; olives, 1

BRITISH EXPORT EM

The American Consul General at of December 20 additions to the Bri The following letters are used to in (A) denoting prohibition to all destin except British possessions and protect in Europe and on the Mediterranean allied countries and Spain. The addit

A—Bags and sacks wholly or partly of jute and allowed by customs authorities to be sh coke and manufactured fuel; fire clay and arti flax cordage and twine; harness and saddl ponent parts, and hand and machine tools and gas mantle rings; jute cordage and twine, jute partly of jute, jute threads, twist, webbing, and night lights wholly or partly of paraffin wax o thereof; carpenters', coopers', farriers', glaziers' shaves; turpentine oil and spirit and artic tute and articles thereof; vessels.

B—Watches and watch movements.
C—Night lights, except those manufactured wh or tallow.

Certain additions listed above are exten former headings. The following old items

A—Petroleum coke; fire bricks and fire clay; the penters', coopers', farriers', glaziers', painters', and and saddlers' shaves; turpentine substitute and artic
B—Boats and craft; coke except petroleum coke cordage and twine; jute padding, piece goods who.

oil, or turpentine; vessels; watches.

C—Zinc bariun pigments made from zinc salts and barium sulphate (except zinc oxide); linen thread; matches.

[Recent additions to the embargo list were reported in **COMMERCE REPORTS** for Oct. 23 and Dec. 6.]

NOVEMBER IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

Exports during November amounted to \$488,000,000, a decrease of \$55,000,000 from October, 1917, and of \$28,000,000 from November of last year, according to a statement issued by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, Department of Commerce. For the 11 months ending with November exports were valued at \$5,639,000,000 against \$4,959,000,000 a year ago.

Imports during November were valued at \$221,000,000, about the same as in October of this year, but \$41,000,000 more than in November a year ago. The imports during the 11 months of this year were valued at \$2,725,000,000, a considerable increase over the imports for the 11-months' period of 1916, which were valued at \$2,187,000,000.

The excess of exports over imports amounted to \$268,000,000 in November, 1917, against \$339,000,000 a year ago. The excess of exports during the 11 months ending with November amounted to \$2,914,000,000 in 1917, against \$2,773,000,000 in 1916, an increase of \$141,000,000 in the current year.

Gold imports during the month amounted to only \$3,000,000, against \$47,000,000 a year ago; and gold exports amounted to \$7,000,000 in November, 1917, and \$26,000,000 in 1916. During the 11 months ending with November, gold imports amounted to \$535,000,000 and exports to \$367,000,000, leaving an excess of imports of \$168,000,000 in 1917 against \$399,000,000 in 1916.

Silver imports during the month amounted to \$9,000,000, a considerable increase over previous months; while silver exports fell to less than \$5,000,000. For the 11 months period the silver imports amounted to \$47,000,000 against \$29,000,000 a year ago, and the exports were valued at \$74,000,000 in 1917 and \$62,000,000 in 1916.

PORTUGUESE CURRENCY SITUATION.

[Consul General W. L. Lowrie, Lisbon, Nov. 9.]

Owing to the disappearance of practically all gold and silver in Portugal, the country is on a paper basis. New notes of 5, 10, and 50 centavos have been issued by the Bank of Portugal. Small coins of 1 and 4 centavos have been placed in circulation to relieve the scarcity of small change.

The latest statement (Oct. 17) of the Bank of Portugal shows the total issue of paper money as follows: Gold notes, 156,079,813 escudos; silver notes, 16,772,947 escudos; copper notes, 9,670 escudos; total, 172,862,430 escudos. The metal reserve was 12,925,179 escudos. On August 5, 1914, the notes in circulation totaled 86,406,685 escudos and the metal reserve 16,644,127 escudos.

The premium of Portuguese gold compared with paper was 14 to 18 per cent in August, 1917, and is now (Nov. 9) from 100 to 110 per cent.

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FRENCH CONCESSION

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Cuba to-day presents a very unusual opportunity to American manufacturers of jewelry and silverware. The island is exceptionally prosperous, as a result in great measure of the high prices that have been paid in the last few years for sugar, which is its chief product. Cubans are fond of jewelry, and are lavish in their expenditures for it. Their fashions especially favor the wearing of such articles.

"The Cuban markets are open to-day to American manufacturers because Europe is shipping little or nothing on account of the war," says Special Agent S. W. Rosenthal of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, who is now investigating Latin-American markets for jewelry. "In normal times Germany supplied about 75 per cent of the jewelry imported by this country, while nothing is being shipped from there to-day. Since the beginning of the war several small jewelry factories have been started in Cuba, but these operate principally in platinum goods set with precious stones. There is a need in this market for medium-priced goods, preferably pieces that can be sold to the trade for less than \$50 each.

Advantages Over European Competitors.

"Americans have two great advantages over their European competitors—their proximity to the market, since goods reach Habana in about three days after leaving New York City; and the lower duties paid on American goods. These reductions are substantial—on articles made of gold, silver, and platinum, 20 per cent; on gold-plated and silver-plated goods, 30 per cent; and on American watches, 40 per cent."

In taking up the practical questions involved Mr. Rosenthal states:

The American manufacturer should not get the impression that he can sell the Cuban jeweler any kind of goods at any prices. He will not find the trade at the pier anxiously awaiting his arrival. The local jeweler knows values, since he has received a thorough training in buying from all the markets of the world. It should also be kept in mind that the tastes of this market are decidedly different from those of the United States. They are European, which in most cases will mean the making up of special goods. The Cuban market, however, is of sufficient importance in many articles to warrant this. To the American manufacturer who seriously contemplates entering the export field with the idea of building up a permanent trade, the island offers an excellent start. The market should prove profitable to him if he spends the time and the money to cater to it properly.

Many Substantial Jewelry Firms.

There are several ways of selling goods in Cuba, but undoubtedly the best one is to send a salesman with a complete line of samples, either to cover the territory himself, or to appoint a capable local representative. The language of the country is Spanish, but several of the important houses also speak English. There are many substantial firms in the jewelry line, some of which have been established upward of 40 years, working with a capital of more than \$100,000.

In general the credit standing of the jewelry trade in Habana is good. No failures have been recorded in the last few years, although when the European war started one firm experienced difficulties and settled with its creditors at 85 cents on the dollar. It is not advised, however, that credit should be extended indiscriminately. The financial standing of each house should be carefully investigated, just as would be done in the United States. Both Dun and Bradstreet have agencies in Habana, while most of the banks furnish credit information.

Prosperity is not confined to the jewelry trade. Cuba's foreign commerce in the past few years has left her substantial credit balances. For instance,

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THE DIAMOND

[Consul Frank V

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The American consulate at Madras has received a letter from the Director of Industries and Commerce at Bangalore, Mysore, stating that considerable quantities of cardamom seed were formerly exported from the Mysore State, but that because of the stoppage of export for the past two years the trade is almost at a standstill. The Director, therefore, requests to be informed if arrangements can be made for shipping about 2,000 tons of seeds to America, and if it is not possible to find space to ship a large quantity of seeds he desires to know the names of any firms in the United States which might be interested in purchasing cardamom oil or who are wholesale dealers in same. He states that he is prepared to offer samples of seeds or of oil and to quote prices f. o. b. Bombay or Madras. It is suggested that any firm interested should write direct to the Director of Industries, Mysore State, India.

Over-Seas Trade.

There are two kinds of cardamoms in South India. The round, smooth-skinned capsules are known as "Mysore" and the longish, rough-grained capsules as "Malabar" cardamoms in the trade. The "Mysore" capsules bring about \$0.12 a pound more than the "Malabar." Before the war 48 per cent of the exports went from Tuticorin, 25 per cent from Calicut, 16 per cent from Tellicherry, and 6 per cent from Mangalore. The largest exports were in 1914-15, when 5,850 tons, valued at \$75,269, were shipped. In that year the United Kingdom took 49 per cent of the exports, Ceylon 39 per cent, and Germany 15 per cent. The seeds are packed in cases holding one hundredweight of 112 pounds.

Cardamoms from South India are usually consigned for sale in London auction rooms, but direct business has been possible at about \$0.48 a pound for c. i. f. ordinary dried cardamoms or \$1.09 for chipped bleached. There are two grades—(1) bleached and (2) unbleached. Price f. o. b. West Coast about a year ago, with more normal conditions prevailing, was \$9.40 to \$10.05 per maund of 25 pounds.

The planting expert of the Agricultural Department of Madras gives the following account of the cardamom industry in South India:

Cultural and Drying Methods.

The cardamom is the fruit of a perennial herb, with thick, fleshy rhizomes and erect, leafy stems 4 to 8 feet in height, and long, branched inflorescences, which arise near the ground. The plant is indigenous in West and South India, in the rich, moist forests of Canara, Mysore, Coorg, Wynaad, Travancore, and Cochin. In these districts it is cultivated to a large extent by both native growers and Europeans. It is difficult to say what the total acreage under this crop is in South India, but of recent years, with an improvement in prices, large areas have been planted up, and some of the tea and rubber estates have also considerable areas under cardamoms, and there are big estates where nothing else is grown in the Anamalais and Malabar, while many of the coffee estates of Coorg and Mysore cultivate cardamoms in the gullies and ravines.

Two species are grown, the Malabar cardamom, with prostrate fruit-bearing stems and a small pod, and the Mysore cardamom, with upright fruit-bearing stems and a large pod. The crop is grown in ravines and damp, shady places, and on the floor of the jungles after the undergrowth has been removed. Very

seed, and after a time they are thinned out and replanted. The cardamom flowers in April and May, and the fruits are gathered in September and October. When ripe they are broken from the scape with a stalk attached so as not to split the pod. They are dried in the shade, graded, and sold. A few planters complete the process of drying artificially in hot-air chambers, and others bleach the pods with sulphur fumes and produce the very best varieties. This latter process, however, involves a lot of trouble, and it is usual to market the pods in the dry and unbleached condition.

There is a large demand for cardamoms in India as a spice, while in England and Germany they are used in the manufacture of medicines and in North Europe as a spice for flavoring cakes and in the preparation of liquors. The essential oil extracted from the seeds is used in perfumery in France and America. The demand, and consequently price, is variable, but of late years both have advanced considerably, and many new areas have been put under cardamom cultivation.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE CHANGES ITS HOURS OF SERVICE.

Secretary of Commerce Redfield has issued an order changing the hours of the officers and employees of the Department of Commerce housed in the Commerce Building at the corner of Nineteenth Street and Pennsylvania Avenue NW., as follows:

The hours of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, Navigation, Lighthouses, and the Steamboat-Inspection Service will be from 8.30 a. m. to 4 p. m., and the lunch period from 12 m. to 12.30 p. m., and those of the Office of the Secretary, including its various divisions and sections, and the Bureau of the Census, from 8.45 a. m. to 4.15 p. m., and the lunch period from 12.45 to 1.15 p. m. This change will become effective January 2, 1918.

This change was made in an attempt to assist the railroad companies in relieving the congestion during the rush hours of the morning and evening, it having been especially noticeable that through the lack of railroad facilities much tardiness on the part of the employees was caused over which they had no control.

The Department of Commerce was the pioneer in the movement of changing office hours, as it in July, 1914, changed the hours of one-half of the employees housed in the Commerce Building from 9 a. m. to 4.30 p. m., to 8.45 a. m. to 4.15 p. m. This change was made at that time in an attempt to avoid traffic congestion.

SUCCESSFUL WINTER TRIP TO THE SEAL ISLANDS.

The Government steamship *Roosevelt* is on its way to Seattle with a full cargo of sealskins, seal meat, and other products from the Seal Islands, having successfully carried out the novel and dangerous task of taking coal and other supplies to the islands in the middle of the winter.

Commissioner H. M. Smith, of the Bureau of Fisheries, reports that as a result of the trip the natives are well fortified against the severe weather that has already set in, and will be much more comfortable and contented in consequence. Great difficulty was experienced in unloading supplies and taking on the island products, as the Bering Sea was constantly swept by tempestuous winds.

The return cargo consists of 4,258 sealskins, and various casks of corned seal meat and other products, as well as 3,500 sacks of bones, which will weigh between 350,000 and 400,000 pounds.

The electric power that is used in Milan is not produced in the city, but is supplied by hydroelectric plants in the Alps. The concerns that distribute power here are: (1) Società Generale Italiana Edison di Eletticità; address, Via S. Radegonda 10, Milan; director general, Prof. Ing. Giacinto Motta; manager, Ing. Eugenio Piccinini; (2) Azienda Elettrica Municipale; address, Via Signora 10; director, Cav. Ing. Tito Gonzales. The former is a private company, while the latter is municipal. Both own plants in Milan, provided with systems of alternate turbines, 25,000 and 20,000 kilowatts capacity, respectively. These are used only in time of drought, or when the hydroelectric plants need repairs.

The energy consumed in Milan and adjoining towns is given at an average of 800,000 kilowatt hours every 24 hours, the maximum power at start varying from 56,000 to 70,000 kilowatts.

Almost all the power is alternate, 3-phase, 42 periods, $160=3,600=8,700$ -volt, only a limited quantity being direct current, 2×110 -volt, for lighting service in the central section of Milan. The street car system consumes 3-phase alternate current, transformed to 550-volt direct.

Do Not Sell Motors to Customers.

The concerns that supply the power do not sell motors to their customers. The motors that are on sale here are of the following makes: Brown Boveri of Baden, Switzerland; Oerlikon of Baden, Switzerland; Tecnomasio Italiano Brown Boveri of Milan; and Officine Savigliano of Turin.

There are also minor motor manufactures doing business in this country, all of them turning out 3-phase motors. Before the war, some German companies made sales in Milan and Lombardy.

The manufacturing plants in Milan and its suburbs that use electric power for industrial purposes number about 8,000, and they have 20,000 motors aggregating 90,000 kilowatts capacity. The street car system, consisting of 450 cars, without counting trailers, consume 6,000 kilowatts.

Two important isolated plants are now under construction, one at Sesto S. Giovanni, Province of Milan, belonging to Ernesto Breda & Co., and the other in the city of Milan, belonging to the Acciajerie e Ferrerie Lombarde. Both will produce 3-phase alternate current of 70,000 volts.

Compiling List of Companies.

A list of the towns in Lombardy (district of Milan) that are provided with electricity accompanies this report, giving voltage, etc., as well as a list of the electric-power companies with offices in Milan, which are doing business in Lombardy. The American consulate is advised that the Associazione Elettrotecnica Italiana, Via S. Paolo 10, whose President is Comm. Ing. Guido Semenza, is compiling a complete list of all the companies that produce and distribute electric energy in Italy.

The principal classes of industries in this district are: Cotton and silk goods manufacturing; all kinds of mechanical industries; and

, list of motor dealers in M
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[Lists of the dealers, municipalities in this report may be obtained from the district or cooperative electric power in Italy were
Aug. 8, 1917.]

HONGKONG-PH

[Consul General George J.

The trade in fresh meat which was inaugurated a beef and other meats in a the time being. The chief element in the character the gold price of meat has stationary. The trade reached 1917, before the marked shipments impossible. In the first half of 1917 we value of \$76,960 in the first of shipments in 1916 was three quarters of 1917 we shipments so far in the first

As a result of an outbreak whence Hongkong obtained a shortage of beef in the market authorized prices approved. It is believed that the outbreak district at present involves long. Shipments of beef temporarily being made watched for infection.

The Philippines at present Australia, where silver exports although prices are high. silver to a normal basis than

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Commercial Attaché C that the four great Spanish the Madrid-Sarragosa, the Caceres Co.—have joined that will undertake to make those that Spain previously the United States.

Recent Italian decrees which have been forwarded from Genoa by Vice Consul Quincy F. Roberts establish control over various products which are in daily use. One measure is intended to facilitate the production of shoes for the civil population. Another establishes supervision over the consumption of bread and meat in public places. Other provisions relate to the production of citrate of lime and cooked lemon juice in Sicily and Calabria; the requisitioning of products of the distillation of coal, contracts for sulphur oil, prices for denaturants and olive husks, and assistance for citrus-fruit growers whose plants are damaged.

Footwear for Civil Population.

A recent lieutenant's decree provides that the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Labor, with the approval of the Ministry of War, and, if deemed necessary, that of the central committee on footwear, shall arrange facilities for providing footwear for the civil population at fair prices. The Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Labor is authorized to order the footwear factories to manufacture certain special types at determined time and price, and to fix the quantity of such footwear in proportion to the power of each plant. Similar authority is extended also to this ministry regarding tanneries.

To Obtain Supplies of Raw Material.

The Ministries of War, and Industry, Commerce and Labor will facilitate the providing of raw material to the footwear factories that are commissioned with such manufacture in amounts corresponding to the footwear to be made. The Minister of Industry, Commerce and Labor may by decree determine, after consulting the central footwear committee, if he so desires, the types of footwear which may be put upon the market; rules deemed opportune for rendering consumption proportionate to output; and regulations so that footwear made in conformity with this decree shall be sold at prices favoring the poorer classes. This ministry may also, with the approval of that of War, order a census of footwear, and of raw and tanned hides suitable for the manufacture of footwear for the civil population and not already destined for military use; and may requisition hides, fixing the prices.

It was provided that after October 1, 1917, the footwear factories producing for the civil population should be obliged to stamp upon the outside of the sole of every pair of boots, shoes, etc., in visible and indelible manner, the selling price to the consumer and the name of the firm manufacturing. After December 1, footwear even when imported shall not be sold in public shops unless it is so stamped.

Serving of Bread and Meat in Restaurants.

A decree of the Commissary General for supply and consumption of food provides that in restaurants, pensions, dining cars, cafés, milk shops, hotels, and other public rooms in which food is consumed, bread must be served in thin slices, untoasted, not exceeding 2 centimeters in thickness, and for each repast in an amount not exceeding 80 grams. In refreshment rooms of a popular character, a special list of which will be compiled by the mayor of the commune, the bread served must not exceed 150 grams for each meal.

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adulterated alcohol.

Sulphuric ether.....	liters..
Varnishes.....	do....
Varnishes for beer containers,	liters.....
Dermoid patent.....	liters..
Collodion.....	do....
Artificial silk.....	do....
Bromide paper for photographs,	liters.....
Lysolform.....	liters..

Restrictions on Surplus I

A decree has been i
concerning certain pr
artificial graphite, li

phenol, carbonic acid, creosote oil, creosote, ammonia, ammonium nitrate, ammonium sulphate, acetate of lime, acetone, nitrate of sodium, sulphide of carbon, tetrachloride of carbon, and nitric acid.

Holders of these materials, where regulations have not been issued by the competent offices for their destination, are authorized to continue the normal direct consumption for the carrying on of their industries, but can not cede or exchange them without previous consent of the Ministry of Arms and Munitions. When they hold—even in the case of supplies already disposed of abroad—quantities destined for commerce or greater than their needs for direct consumption, they must apply to the Ministry of Arms and Munitions in order that they may give the necessary orders as to the destination of the material in question.

Sulphur-Oil Contracts—Olive-Husk Prices.

Contracts for sulphur oil must be authorized by the Ministry of Arms and Munitions, and the maximum price is fixed at 210 lire per quintal f. o. b. station of departure, with obligatory return of casks at expense of consignee, free station of seller; allowance for damp and impurities, 2 per cent. Under similar conditions, the maximum price in authorized contracts for sulphide of carbon is 170 lire per quintal.

For 1917-18 the price of unexhausted olive husks will be freely agreed upon by the contracting parties on the basis of the maximum price of 1.40 lire for every kilo of oil yield, in percentage of weight and for goods delivered at the place of production. In case of divergence, the parties must abide by the result of an analysis executed in one of the excise laboratories situated at Naples, Rome, Ancona, Leghorn, Genoa, Bologna, Verona, Venice, Milan, Turin, or in the Royal Chemical Agrarian Laboratory at Bari, and for Sicily and Sardinia, executed in the chemical laboratory of the Royal University of Palermo, of Cagliari, or of Sassari.

CROP CONDITIONS IN CHILE.

[Consul General L. J. Keena, Valparaiso, Nov. 20.]

According to newspaper reports the crop conditions in the central and southern zones of Chile are very good.

In the central zone the wheat, to date, has suffered somewhat from lack of rain. With a normal rainfall from now on, however, the crop should be unusually good. The area under cultivation in the central district is said to be about one-third greater than in former years.

Reports from Linares, Nuble, Talca, Nueva Imperial, Pitruiquen, Gorbea, and Curico are to the effect that a very good general crop is expected and that due to recent rains the condition of the growing crop is excellent.

Market Desired for Ecuadorian Wool and Hides.

A firm in Guayaquil, Ecuador, desires to be placed in connection with American buyers and consumers of Ecuadorian sheep wool, mountain and coast cattle hides, and goat and sheep skins. It prefers to deal direct with the consumers. The name of the concern may be obtained upon application to the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or its district and cooperative offices by referring to file No. 95630b.

Aniline dyes are not made in the country. The most valuable dyes with which the country is supplied are bright, and beautiful tin dyes, being displaced largely by foreign dyes. However, ever, is still an important article of silk piece goods. The use of the juice of the green leaves of the tree "maklua" (*Diospyros m...*) gives a jet-black color which will not fade. The coloration are enhanced in v...

Colors Which Were Formerly

The heart wood of the tree is largely employed to produce red dyes for Buddhist monks. Among the dyes of the country were crimson red from the bark of wild "yo" (*Morinda tinctoria*), or sapan wood (*Caesalpinia sappan*), "kannika" (*Pterospermum*), and seeds of "set" (*Rottboellia*). The corolla of "kam foi" gives charming hues and shades. These are used in the garments of the natives of the country.

Imports for Four Years.

Siam's imports of dyes for the years 1914, 1915, 1916, and 1917 were valued at \$70,936; for 1918 at \$70,936; for 1916, 730,876 pounds valued at \$87,360. The imports of 1917 were 102,418 pounds of aniline valued at \$40,197; of indigo valued at \$13,037. Of the aniline, 102,418 pounds were shipped from Holland, and 102,418 from Siam. Nearly all shipments during the year. There were no exports of dyes during that period.

CANE CUTTING

[Consul Clements]

On nearly all the large plantations the cutting of cane began on December 3, while a few small ones began on December 4.

The crop is in excellent condition. The weather is unusually fine, all appearances of a good harvest will be fully realized.

The weather continues to be fine. The heavy rain during November has not in any way retarded or

Yerba maté, or Paraguayan tea, is made from the leaf of the *Ilex Paraguariensis*, a tree indigenous to Paraguay and to parts of Brazil and Argentina adjacent to Paraguay. The infusion has been used by the inhabitants of Paraguay as a beverage from the earliest days of which there is any record, and has also long been in use in Argentina, parts of Brazil, and other near-by Republics.

Tea made from yerba maté leaves is served in two forms, called "maté cocido" and simply "maté." "Maté cocido" is prepared from the yerba leaves identically as ordinary oriental tea is prepared in the United States, and served in a cup with sugar and sometimes with cream. "Maté," or the other form, is made by placing milled or ground yerba leaves in a gourd (called in the Guarani dialect maté, whence the tea gets its name) or other small pear-shaped container and pouring hot water over them. Instead of being served in cups as "maté cocido" is served, "maté" is sipped from the gourd (maté) in which it is made, through a silver or white-metal tube called a bombilla, the gourd and bombilla being passed from person to person as each partakes through the same tube. The latter form of the tea is the one that is in general use among the natives of the country.

Sedative Rather Than Stimulating—Exports.

It is claimed that the tea produces better results when made in the gourd and served through the bombilla (which has a strainer on the bottom) than if taken as ordinary tea from the cup, but "maté cocido" finds favor with a great many people. Those who are familiar with the tea served in both forms state that it is equally as satisfying to the taste as coffee or ordinary tea, that it produces a sedative rather than a stimulating effect when taken, and that the taste for it grows as one becomes accustomed to its use.

Parallel analyses of the properties of yerba maté, coffee, and oriental tea, according to one authority, are as follows: Yerba maté, 12.28 per cent tannin, 2.55 per cent caffeine; coffee, 16.39 per cent tannin, 2.66 per cent caffeine; tea, 17.80 per cent tannin, 4.3 per cent caffeine. Another authority gives the properties of yerba maté as 7.24 per cent tannin and 2.8 per cent caffeine.

Paraguay's exports of yerba maté for the six years ended December 31, 1916, were 2,478,178 kilos, 2,849,790 kilos, 4,216,606 kilos, 3,331,655 kilos, 4,709,213 kilos, and 3,275,558 kilos, respectively. (Kilo=2.2046 pounds.) Argentina is the chief destination, though some tea is exported to Brazil and Uruguay and other neighboring Republics. Only small quantities have been exported to Europe, principally to Germany; and none except occasional samples has been exported to the United States.

Production—Export Duties.

The yerba maté production of the country is controlled chiefly by La Industrial Paraguaya, D. Barthe, and Gauthier & Co., all with head offices in Asuncion. La Industrial Paraguaya is an English concern owning 1,150 square leagues (8,325 square miles) of tea lands in Paraguay. It controls more than 60 per cent of the entire yerba maté trade of this Republic. D. Barthe and

the trade. In a recent address the president of La Industria not desire to do an over-statement is easily found in Paraguay interested in the introduction will not only have to educate must also stimulate production.

The harvest season for yerba which are rather difficult for planting purposes. The produce proper results. The market in mills. The tea kilos each and in packages.

The Paraguayan export gold for each 10 kilos and 10 kilos of the milled or peso is worth \$0.965 U. S. C.

No statistics of yerba milled, but the quantity and amount exported from the

SPECIAL REPORT

The following special report Research Division of the Commerce: Exports of paints of paper bags and containers and 1916; imports of sheet ports of tin plates into available year.

These reports may be obtained from the bureau.

New Siam

Vice Consul Carl C. Harbo to the Siamese Government of the "Pra Thaen Cotton" company proposes to cultivate products for export. The British community.

OFFICES OF THE BUREAU

DISTRICT OFFICES.

NEW YORK: 784 Customhouse.

BOSTON: 1801 Customhouse.

CHICAGO: 504 Federal Building.

ST. LOUIS: 402 Third National Bank

NEW ORLEANS: 1020 Hibernia Bank

SAN FRANCISCO: 307 Customhouse.

SEATTLE: 849 Henry Building.

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the Bureau and its district and cooperative offices. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and state opportunity number. The Bureau does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases. Symbols: * Reported by American consular officers; † Reported by commercial attaches and commercial agents; ‡ Direct inquiries received by the Bureau.

In considering the following "opportunities" special regard should be had to the laws and regulations governing export licenses and trading with the enemy.

Chemical products.....	26156	Mouse traps.....	26157
Confectionery.....	26151	Paper.....	26158
Kid, vici.....	26152	Toothpicks.....	26159
Leather.....	26153	Vacuum-cleaning systems.....	26160
Live stock.....	26154	Watches.....	26161
Machinery.....	26155	Wearing apparel.....	26162
Motion picture films.....	26149	Yarn.....	26163

26147.*—A man in England desires to purchase cheap watches. He is prepared to place an order for 500 or 1,000. Payment will be made by cash against documents. Reference.

26148.‡—A merchant in Uruguay is in the market for writing and book paper. Samples, prices, conditions of sale, and full information should be submitted.

26149.*—An agency is desired by a man in Mexico for motion-picture films of all kinds, with titles and advertising matter preferably in Spanish. He intends to rent these films to the various motion-picture houses in Mexico. Payment will be made either by fixed sum per month per film or will pay them for account of owner on a commission basis. Correspondence should be in English. References.

26150.*—A wholesale buyer in Italy wishes to purchase toothpicks, mouse traps, and iron articles for kitchen use and cooking, such as saucepans, griddles, etc. Quotations may be made f. o. b. New York. Payment will be made by opening credit at a local bank when giving the order, available against shipping documents. Correspondence should be in French or Italian.

26151.*—An agency is desired by a man in Maltese Islands for the sale of confectionery, chocolates, and bouillons. Correspondence may be in English. References.

26152.*—A man in Algeria desires to purchase cotton yarn for weaving canvas for uppers of a kind of shoe extensively used by the natives of Algeria, the yarn to be of 2 and 3 threads, similar to French Nos. 6, 8, 10, and 12 and American first quality, unbleached and white; vici kid and box calf leather; and also machinery for weaving the above-mentioned cloth. The yarn would be ordered in 150 to 200 ton lots. Quotations may be made f. o. b. New York. Payment will be made by confirmed credit in New York, if desired, but he would prefer to pay 25 per cent or 50 per cent at time of shipment and balance against documents at destination. Correspondence may be in English. References.

26153.†—A man in Ecuador wishes to buy stallions, bulls, and hogs for breeding purposes. Correspondence may be in English. Reference.

26154.*—A firm in Norway desires to secure an agency for the sale of vacuum cleaning systems with central dust reservoirs for buildings up to five stories in height with ground areas of about 5,000 to 6,000 square feet. Quotations should be made f. o. b. New York. Payment will be made by cash against documents. Correspondence may be in English. Reference.

26155.†—A woman in Peru desires to receive catalogues and prices from American manufacturers and exporters of wearing apparel for women and children. She would like to purchase samples, from which she proposes to effect sales. Goods should be sent by parcel post. Correspondence should be in Spanish.

26156.‡—A man in France wishes to purchase and secure an agency for the sale of chemical products for pharmaceutical industries, dyeing, and drugs. Correspondence should be in French. References.

**No. 302 Washington**

Revocation of British general license
 Names removed from enemy list
 Time of loading and expiration
 Prohibition of intoxicating liquors
 Italian chambers of commerce
 Catalogues for Russia should
 Probable cost of construction
 Standard wages for British
 Imports of fruit into New Zealand

REVOCATION

[Cablegram from

The general license
 revoked with effect from
 licenses will be granted
 Contracts. The general
 also been revoked at the

NAMES REMOVED

The War Trade Board
 been removed from the

H. J. C. Henriquez, Man
 Lehner & Disbron, Mex
 H. F. Schlattmann, Mex
 Hoffmann, Plnther & Ba
 M. Mollard, Bolivia.
 Bubard & Bourlon, Mex
 Bouliguy & Schmidt Suc
 Fernando Galsmon, Mex
 Manuel Levy, Mexico Ci
 Harr & Chaperlner, Mex
 Bannister, Vera Cruz, M
 Dubernard (tailor), Mex
 Ehard & Cla., Mexico Ci
 J. G. Masson, Mexico Ci
 Inos. Zaldo, Vera Cruz.
 Marimbo & Bacellur, Rio

TIME OF LOADING

The attention of the
 has been called to ship
 sels by railroad lighte
 side the steamer before

28835°--17

expires.

The Bureau has, on a previous occasion, ruled that the date of the dock receipt should be the date to be considered in comparison with the expiration date of the license. In order not to cause any unnecessary inconvenience to shippers, and to help in avoiding any congestion which might be due to shipments of the character described above, the Bureau has now ruled that the time of the arrival of the lighter alongside the ocean-going vessel or steamship dock will be the deciding factor, should any dispute arise as to the validity of the license to cover the shipment in question. In other words, if the captain of a lighter reports alongside on December 26, 1917, having goods covered by a license expiring on December 26, the license shall be valid for this shipment, even though the goods may not be actually loaded onto the pier or into the vessel until several days later.

PROHIBITION OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS IN CANADA.

[The Canada Gazette (Extra), Dec. 22.]

The necessity for conserving all the energies and resources of the country for the prosecution of the war by promoting thrift and economy and by increasing the national efficiency has led to the enactment of regulations prohibiting the importation of intoxicating liquors into Canada. Any beverage or liquor containing more than 24 per cent of alcohol is subject to the prohibition, but an exception is made in the case of sacramental wine and of intoxicating liquors imported for medicinal purposes or for manufacturing or commercial purposes other than for manufacture or use as a beverage. The order went into effect December 24, 1917, except as to liquor actually purchased for importation into Canada before that day and imported on or before January 31, 1918, of which fact satisfactory proof is offered, and is to remain in force until one year after the conclusion of the war.

ITALIAN CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE IN SWITZERLAND.

[Commercial Attaché C. W. A. Veditz, Paris, France.]

The Italian Chamber of Commerce, of Geneva has recently created a branch organization at Zurich and another at Lugano, one of the purposes of which is stated as being the defense of Italian interests against German commercial propaganda, which is now said to be very active in southern Switzerland.

Catalogues for Russia Should be in Russian.

The consul general at Moscow strongly advises American firms that anticipate actively entering the Russian market to have their catalogues published in Russian. Such catalogues, he adds, would greatly facilitate the work of the consulate general in disseminating commercial information, and the returns would undoubtedly warrant the additional cost.

One of the leading build-
ment, in its issue of Nove-
the probably cost of buil-
The author opposes the vie-
materials may be expected
1914. He states that a sin-
of present high prices is st-

The increased price for
directly from the soil, is a
fodder for traction anima-
disappear, for there have b-
decrease in wages coinci-
After the war the demand
even to be an increase in v-
cline in the cost of building
labor is concerned, and th-
building trades.

The increased price of h-
upon local transportation c-
some time; French peasants
from their children that th-
tural crops will therefore
higher prices.

It may, therefore, be cor-
rials can not decline, becau-
existing increase will contin-
intense than before.

With regard to wood, it
been subjected to an unus-
exploitation, and that the
large-scale construction of
leave a deficit in the suppl-
the deforestation that has
of wood from the French
law to facilitate the impo-
transportation and the inc-
result in bringing the price
by at least one-third the
Sweden and Norway, the p-
demanded throughout Euro-
quantities.

Even though, in spite of
in the price of lumber, the
than offset any such possibi-
even though it may be some
any event be considerably h-

High Prices of Materials Other

Steel and other metals wi-
as soon as the manufacture

In the manufacture of builders' hardware the cost of labor is much more important than the cost of raw materials, and the reduction in materials will have little or no effect upon builders' hardware, locksmiths' wares, and the like.

Tiles, bricks, and all articles of pottery, in general, will undergo the same influences as stone and sand; any difference in favor of these products will be attributable only to a reduction in the cost of coal; but the reduced price of coal will follow slowly upon the cessation of hostilities, for the principal French mines, greatly damaged by the enemy, will require considerable time to resume operation upon a basis approaching that of 1914; moreover, new workshops and manufacturing, which will be established throughout France, will require coal, and the probably increased demands will tend to postpone any important decline in prices.

Summing up the facts to which he calls attention the author of the article predicts that the cost of building in France will probably be maintained at nearly the present level, with not more than 5 or 10 per cent difference, largely because the relative importance of primary materials entering into construction work is too small as compared with the cost of labor—both the labor that makes the materials and the labor that builds.

The reconstruction of the invaded and devastated regions, and the repair of buildings, whose upkeep has been neglected during more than three years of war, will lead to demands for building materials and building activities far in excess of the available means for their accomplishment.

STANDARD WAGES FOR BRITISH SEAMEN.

[Consul General Robert P. Skinner, London, Nov. 30.]

The National Maritime Board of the United Kingdom held its first meeting on November 23, and the deliberations of the board have been continued from day to day, with the result that announcement is now made of the following standard rates of pay as recommended to the Shipping Controller and confirmed by him: Deck department—Carpenter, £14 (\$68.13), boatswain, £13 (\$63.26), boatswain's mate, £12 (\$58.40), lamp trimmers, £12 (\$58.40), quartermaster, £12 (\$58.40), able seamen, £11 10s. (\$55.96); engine-room department—donkeyman, £13 (\$63.26), storekeeper, £13 (\$63.26), leading firemen, £12 10s. (\$60.83), greasers, £12 10s. (\$60.83), firemen, £12 (\$58.40).

IMPORTS OF FRUIT INTO NEW ZEALAND.

Imports of fruit into New Zealand during the year ended March 31, 1917, as reported by the Wellington Trade Review and Price Current, were 79,837 cases of apples, 198,900 cases of oranges and mandarins, 14,855 cases of lemons, 16,496 cases of pines, 10,717 cases of passion fruit, and 314,639 cases of bananas. Of the total of 637,957 cases of all fruits, Auckland imported 370,532; Wellington, 150,441; Christchurch, 60,340; and Dunedin, 47,000 cases. The total for the preceding year was 559,619 cases.



Chinese mining laws. The entire district at present is subject to piracy, and other forms of lawlessness. Conditions under which trade has been carried on for the past six years or so have been discouraging in the extreme. Exports from this section in which the United States is particularly interested include matting, cassia, antimony, hides, and silk.

NEW ITALIAN RULES GOVERN SHIP INSURANCE.

[Vice Consul Quincy F. Roberts, Genoa, Oct. 29.]

The Official Gazette published at Rome October 1, 1917, contains a new lieutenant's decree in regard to the insurance of merchant vessels. For the duration of the war the loss of a ship will be considered as due to war risks. In case it is subsequently shown that the loss of the ship was instead due to a marine accident, the insurer against war risks who has paid the indemnity has the right to obtain reimbursement from the insurer against ordinary risks of navigation.

The indemnity against war risks will be paid to the insured to the amount covered by the insurance against the ordinary risks of navigation in favor of the insured, and it must be invested by the insurer against war risks in 5 per cent bonds of the consolidated public debt payable to the insured with a clause in favor of the insurer against war risks.

Provision for Arbitration.

In the case of disasters occurring through lack of information according to the terms of the commercial code prior to the date of entry into force of the present decree, eventual controversies between insurers against war risks, insurers against ordinary risks, and insured must be submitted for judgment to three arbitrators, who shall be appointed by the Tribunal of Rome. This rule will be applied in spite of any agreements to the contrary between the parties.

INCREASED EXPORTS FROM PIEDRAS NEGRAS TO UNITED STATES.

There was a large increase in the value of the articles invoiced at the American consulate at Piedras Negras, Mexico, for the United States during the first nine months of 1917 compared with the corresponding period of 1916, the total value of the American purchases being \$2,975,947, compared with \$1,511,216 for the first nine months of 1916. Some of the principal items invoiced during the 1917 period, with their value, were as follows: Cattle, \$516,386; sheep, \$100,458; rubber, \$468,393; zinc ore, \$423,452; antimony ore, \$247,286; lead ore, \$52,941; cotton-seed cake, \$298,689; cotton-seed oil, \$253,170; hides and skins, \$248,234; and ixtle, \$168,561.

Commercial Attaché Erwin W. Thompson reports from Copenhagen, Denmark, that a new cement works has been organized at Kjopsnæs, in the neighborhood of Narvik, Norway, with a capital of \$800,000 to \$1,000,000. It is proposed to manufacture 300,000 barrels of cement per year.

is due in each case to an increased war demand. There has also been a considerable rise in the output of lead, and a very marked gain in the output of silver, in consequence of the steady development of the Bawdwin mines. The production of chromite and magnesite has also increased.

MOTION-PICTURE PERFORMANCES IN BAGDAD.

[Consul Oscar S. Helser, Bagdad, Mesopotamia, Oct. 9.]

Bagdad has one public motion-picture theater. The building is about 100 feet long by 60 feet wide, a somewhat primitive structure, but with the advantage that the ventilation is very good. The seats are divided into two classes. The price of first-class tickets is 26 cents, and that of the second-class admission 17 cents. The hall is furnished with electric lights and electric fans, power for which is supplied by a small motor.

The films shown are similar to those ordinarily exhibited in America. There is usually one long film featuring some prominent French or English actor, followed by a short comedy. Numerous American films also are shown here.

Pictures are Rented for Certain Period.

Until recently films were imported chiefly from Smyrna, Turkey, where there was an agency, but that source of supply has been cut off since the occupation of Bagdad by the British on March 11, 1917. Another source is the firm of Pathé Frères, of Paris, France. The films are not purchased, but rented for a certain period and then returned. The theater opens every night at 8 o'clock, and closes about 10.30. There are no exhibitions during the day at present. The pictures are changed twice a week. The attendance is good.

There is also a motion-picture plant conducted by the military authorities exclusively for the British officers and soldiers. Before the war a local British firm conducted a first-class film theater in Bagdad. It was very popular, and was attended by the best class of the population. Undoubtedly such enterprises will prosper here in the future, when normal conditions are restored, because the city has a population of about 200,000, and this form of amusement appeals to them.

[The name and ownership of the public theater mentioned in this report may be learned by applying to the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, its district or cooperative offices. Refer to file No. 95699.]

ALUM PRODUCER SEEKS AMERICAN REPRESENTATIVE.

The owner of an alum mine in Civitavecchia, Province of Rome, Italy, is seeking an American firm which will take the exclusive representation for the product, under a 10-year contract. The name of the mine owner, forwarded by Consul General Keene, may be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, its district or cooperative offices. Samples of the alum may be inspected at the bureau or district offices. Refer to file No. 95709.

In brief, the *Moniteur* is the commercial-information periodical of the French Government, resembling in general the daily *Commerce Reports* of the American Government. It contains the trade opportunities brought to its notice that are likely to interest French exporters and manufacturers.

The Office ordinarily issues weekly a *Feuille d'Information*, or Bulletin of Information. This publication also was stopped at the outbreak of the war but will soon be taken up again. It contains the more important news items and reports issued in the *Moniteur Officiel*. This bulletin is regarded as an efficient agency of trade propaganda; it has a large circulation in France and is posted publicly in railway stations, city halls, schools of commerce, and other places where it is likely to attract public attention. Its aim is to furnish general trade information and to stimulate an interest in export trade even among those manufacturers and tradesmen who have previously shown no disposition to seek business in foreign markets.

The third class of publications of the Office National consists of the so-called *Dossiers Commerciaux*, or commercial documents, each relating to a particular commodity or group of commodities, or to the export market offered by a particular country or district. These documents often contain confidential information not intended for general circulation. They furnish detailed and specialized information along some specific line, likely to interest only those French dealers or manufacturers engaged in that line. They are furnished only to bona fide French firms located either in France or in its colonies.

Finally, the Office publishes, in the form of monographs, the results of special investigations into the market for particular products singled out for such surveys. There have already been published such special monographs relating to wines, cutlery, porcelain, glassware, canned-food products, and the collection of credit claims abroad. The most recent of these *Notes Commerciales* concern the different sections of Morocco, investigated from the standpoint of exports and imports and with regard to agriculture and colonization.

The Office National furnishes, free of charge, information concerning the standing and commercial rating of foreign firms and has in its files a large collection of catalogued cards enabling it in many instances to furnish such data without delay. It also furnishes the names of lawyers prepared to take charge of claims for the collection of unpaid bills abroad.

Another department of the office is concerned with the dispensation of general commercial information, the transmission of samples, and the furnishing of technical data. It undertakes to provide exporters of a given product with data concerning the principal nations exporting that product and with details concerning the requirements of particular markets. It furnishes lists of foreign dealers and importers and undertakes, on behalf of French inquirers, to purchase, on their account, samples, catalogues, etc.

A third department of the office specializes in matters of customs tariffs and trade statistics. It undertakes to furnish information

colonial administration; the cereal crops; the cattle industry; the meat industry; cattle raising in the colonies; dairy products; the exportation of wines; the exportation of liqueurs; forestry after the war; fruit and truck farming; horticulture; industrial plants (beet sugar, hemp, hops, etc.); the trade in seed; agricultural resources of colonial France; agricultural machinery and equipment; agricultural labor; the exportation of farm products (on which subject there are nine reports, covering the principal export markets for French agricultural products).

The Association Nationale maintains a bureau of commercial information prepared to advise French exporters concerning customs duties, import and export regulations, black lists and the blockade, transportation rates and regulations, the exchange situation, taxes, antifraud legislation, colonial conditions, and trade opportunities. It also maintains a department for commercial translation work and issues a bulletin designed to keep its members informed promptly of changes in commercial laws, tariff rates, etc. The association will publish annually an Index of French Producers in the French, English, and Spanish languages, to be circulated widely among foreign jobbers, purchasers, and importers. It has already begun the publication of a monthly review, called *L'Expansion Economique*, containing a section of industrial and commercial notes, a section of agricultural notes, articles on current economic topics, and a summary of industrial and commercial news relating to France and the principal commercial nations of the world.

Other New Organizations to Promote and Protect French Trade.

Of somewhat more recent formation than the Association Nationale is the Union Nationale pour l'Exportation des Produits Français et pour l'Importation des Matières Premières, founded by M. Raoul Peret, former minister of commerce. This organization seeks above all to encourage the grouping of French manufacturers and dealers in order that by this means smaller producers who are unable independently to maintain an export organization may be able to enter the export trade. It is believed that by forming such cooperative groups of comparatively small concerns it will be possible to deal advantageously with steamship and railroad companies and to obtain the special benefits now confined to the larger establishments that have created and maintained their own export organizations. It is the ambition of this association to foster the creation of such groups and to create transportation companies under its own control.

Quite different are the aims of the Union Intersyndicale des Marques (a union of manufacturers' associations for the protection of trade-marks), founded by a well-known electrical engineer, M. Raynald Legouez. The main purpose of this organization is to protect French manufactures against imitation and misrepresentation. It is held that the Germans have been in the habit of selling their own goods as of French manufacture, not only in neutral markets but even in France; also that products nearly finished in Germany have in the past been shipped to France and finished there in order

New Import Duties.

Acting under the authorization to modify the export and import tariffs without first securing congressional approval, conferred by the law of October 31, 1917 (see **COMMERCE REPORTS** of Nov. 19, 1917), the President of Mexico has decreed a number of tariff changes to be effective from December 1, 1917. In nearly every case the changes consist in increases in the rates of duty. An entirely new classification is substituted for that covering hats and parts thereof under items 649 and 705-710, the new rates being from 0.40 to 5 pesos each, as compared with former rates ranging from 0.40 to 3 pesos. Electric irons for laundry and trade use are withdrawn from the list of tools of trade exempted from duty under item 685 and become dutiable until July 31, 1918, at 1.50 pesos, or \$0.75, each. Corresponding modifications are made in the index and in the explanatory notes, which are regarded as a part of the tariff. The other changes are as follows, duties being based upon the gross weight except where otherwise indicated:

[Peso, normally = \$0.498; kilo = 2.2046 pounds.]

Tariff No.	Articles.	Rate of duty per kilo	
		New.	Old.
		Pesos.	Pesos.
296	Articles of porcelain or china, not otherwise specified.....	0.33	0.25
297	Articles of porcelain or china, not otherwise specified, decorated with gold, silver, or colors.....	.40	.30
522	Absorbent cotton and gauze, whether or not sterilized or antiseptic.....	0.30	0.10
566	Spirits, in earthen or glass containers.....	1.15	0.75
567	Spirits, in wooden containers.....	1.50	1.00
570	Beer and cider, in bottles.....	.30	0.20
571	Beer and cider, in barrels.....	.20	.15
572	Liqueurs and bitters, in earthen or glass containers.....	1.00	0.50
573	Liqueurs and bitters, in wooden containers.....	1.50	.75
576	Wines, in wooden containers.....	.25	.20
577	Wines, in glass containers.....	.30	0.25
578	Sparkling wines.....	2.50	1.00

a Duty based on legal weight; i. e., including immediate containers.

Excise Changes.

Alcoholic beverages of both domestic and foreign production are to be subject to greatly increased internal taxes from January 1, 1918, according to a decree of November 24, 1917. For distilled liquors of domestic production the tax is to be 50 per cent of the wholesale price in place of 40 per cent, while the taxes on domestic wines and beer are fixed at 25 per cent and 16 per cent, respectively, based on the wholesale price. Wines were formerly subject to the same tax as beer.

In the case of imported beverages the increases are even more marked. The general excise tax of 40 per cent of the duties on wines and liquors and beer is replaced by a tax of 80 per cent of the import duty for beer and of 70 per cent of the duties for other alcoholic beverages.

Another decree of November 24, also in effect January 1, 1918, repeals and takes the place of the decree of June 5, 1917, which

other containers. Under the decree are continued with no provision for the application to containers other than bottles. Neither is any tax specified although cider and similar beverages are taxed as sparkling wines and are distinct from and additive to the tax on sparkling wines.

[The former excise and stamp duties are continued in COMMERCE REPORTS of June 30, 1913, p. 166.]

Export Duties on Live Stock and

The export duties on goats are continued at 2 pesos each by a decree in effect since the time the exportation of male and female cattle under 10 years of age is suspended. The export duty on goats is 2 pesos (\$9.96) each is imposed without the permission of the Treasury. The exportation of cattle not suitable for fresh hay and on straw is continued at 0.75 peso per 100 kilos (\$3.75) and the former duties of 0.50 peso and 0.75 peso are continued.

The monthly schedule of export duties of the Mexican Treasury Department is continued in most of the rates of the former schedule. Only in the case of tin is the duty on gold continued. The export duties on the more important metals are as follows: Silver, 2.803 pesos per 100 kilos; lead, 0.563 peso per 100 kilos; and tin, 9.127 pesos per 100 kilos. Rates are dutiable at 0.19523 pesos per kilo. In most cases the export duties are slightly higher than the corresponding duties on ingots. Net weight is the basis.

[The export duties on metals are continued applicable only to exported products. The new duties are to be in force until Dec. 31, 1913. The former duties on metals are suspended. The new duties on metals will be found in COMMERCE REPORTS of June 30, 1913, p. 166.]

OFFICES OF THE BUREAU OF

DISTRICT OFFICES.

NEW YORK: 784 Customhouse.

BOSTON: 1801 Customhouse.

CHICAGO: 504 Federal Building.

ST. LOUIS: 403 Third National Bank Building.

NEW ORLEANS: 1020 Hibernia Bank Building.

SAN FRANCISCO: 807 Customhouse.

SEATTLE: 848 Henry Building.

five offices. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and state opportunity number. The Bureau does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases. Symbols: * Reported by American consular officers; † Reported by commercial attachés and commercial agents; ‡ Direct inquiries received by the Bureau.

In considering the following "opportunities" special regard should be had to the laws and regulations governing export licenses and trading with the enemy.

Billiard table cloth.....	26157	Hides and skins.....	26161
Canned goods.....	26160	Hosiery.....	26162
Clips.....	26158	Millinery goods.....	26163
Combs.....	26159	Notions.....	26164
Cotton flannels.....	26159	Printing press and supplies.....	26165
Drugs and chemicals.....	26160	Sheetings and drills.....	26166
Dry goods.....	26159, 26160	Spoons.....	26167
Embroideries.....	26159	Sugar and rice.....	26168
General merchandise.....	26160	Watering carts.....	26169
Groceries and provisions.....	26160, 26162	Wearing apparel.....	26170

26157.*—A man in Peru desires to purchase about 600 yards of green cloth for covering billiard tables. Quotations should be made f. o. b. port of shipment. Payment will be made by cash with order or documents to bank. The cloth should be well packed to protect it against sea water. Correspondence should be in Spanish. This man is a manufacturer of billiard tables made for sale locally. References.

26158.*—A man in England desires to purchase letter clips. Quotations may be made f. o. b. American port with estimate on freight rates. Cash will be paid. Reference.

26159.†—A firm in Ecuador is in the market for bleached and unbleached sheetings and drills; socks and stockings, colors to be bright, especially in the hosiery for women; white-metal and nickel dessert and tea spoons; celluloid and rubber fine combs; cheap embroideries for making lingerie; cotton flannels in live colors, especially reds, dark reds, etc.; and general dry goods and notions. Payment will be made by cash against documents in Guayaquil or with order, as per arrangement. Correspondence should be in Spanish. References.

26160.†—An agency is desired by a company in Peru for the sale of drugs, chemicals, canned goods, provisions, general merchandise, dry goods, etc. Correspondence may be in English. References.

26161.*—A man in England is in the market for hides and skins, all business to be done on a consignment basis. Payment will be made by cash against documents on arrival of steamer at London or Liverpool. Reference.

26162.*—An agency is desired by a man in Portugal for the sale of rice, tapioca, sago, green and black tea, biscuits, unrefined raw sugar, starch powder, black and white whole pepper, cinnamon, and vanilla. Quotations should be made f. o. b. New York, including commission. Duplicate samples should be submitted. All goods should be carefully boxed or crated. Correspondence may be in English. References.

26163.†—The director of a newspaper in Ecuador desires to purchase one second-hand duplex printing press and printers' supplies. Goods should be very strongly packed to prevent against breakage in numerous transshipments. Correspondence may be in English. Reference.

26164.†—A man in Peru is in the market for wearing apparel of all kinds for women, suits, dresses, gowns, cloaks, capes, lingerie, underwear, hosiery, garters, corsets, shoes for men and women, gloves of all kinds, hats, and millinery. Orders will be accompanied by cash. All goods should be shipped by parcel post. Correspondence may be in English.

26165.*—A firm in French Indo-China is in the market for automobile watering carts used to sprinkle streets. Payment will be made by cash against documents. Correspondence may be in English. References.

26166.†—A dressmaker and milliner in Peru wishes to buy metallic thread for embroidery, machine for sewing straw braid hats, and dyes for straw hats, dyes coming in small packages which are dissolved in alcohol. Payment will be made by cash with order. Goods should be sent by parcel post. Correspondence should be in Spanish.

WASHINGTON: GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1917

hibition shall not apply to any such goods which are imported under a license given by or on behalf of the Treasury and subject to the provisions and conditions of such license. This proclamation may be cited as the Prohibition of Import Proclamation, No. 21, 1917."

A further proclamation, dated November 27 and promulgated December 21, amends Defense of the Realm regulations by providing as follows: "A person, resident in the United Kingdom, shall not, without permission from the Treasury, directly or indirectly, either on his own behalf or on behalf of any other resident in the United Kingdom, send any remittance out of the United Kingdom for the purpose of (a) making or subscribing to any loan or subscribing to any issue of capital outside of the United Kingdom; or (b) purchasing any stock shares or other securities or any property other than merchandise if securities or property are not in the United Kingdom; or (c) purchasing any foreign currency to be held with a view to appreciation in value or as an investment; or take part in or agree or offer to take part in any of the above-mentioned transactions if such transaction involves the sending of any remittance out of the United Kingdom. Any banker or person acting in any similar capacity shall, as a condition of sending out of the United Kingdom any remittance on behalf of any person resident in the United Kingdom, require the person resident in the United Kingdom to make a declaration in writing as to the purpose for which the remittance is proposed to be sent."

SHIPMENTS OF OIL FROM TAMPICO DISTRICT DURING NOVEMBER.

[Consul Claude I. Dawson, Tampico, Mexico, Dec. 10.]

Declared exports of crude oil and petroleum products from the Tampico district to the United States in November amounted to 2,721,799 barrels. The movement from Tampico was 2,283,993 barrels and from Tuxpam 437,806 barrels.

Shipments to points other than the United States were reported as 710,829 barrels. The gross shipments therefore reached 3,432,628 barrels.

Tampico shipments included refined products as follows: Reduced crude, 497,095 barrels; distillate, 125,500 barrels; kerosene, 28,397 barrels; gasoline, 53,704 barrels; topped, crude, 30,000 barrels.

As heretofore, Tuxpam shipments include only crude oil, the topping plants at that port not being ready for operation.

The distribution of oil shipments by destination during November period specified is as follows:

Destination.	From Tampico.	From Tuxpam.	Destination.	From Tampico.	From Tuxpam.
	<i>Barrels.</i>	<i>Barrels.</i>		<i>Barrels.</i>	<i>Barrels.</i>
United States.....	2,283,993	437,806	Chile.....		51,000
Chile.....	182,798		Guatemala.....	49,851	
Dominican Republic.....	9,600		Mexico.....		535,000
Porto Rico.....	49,000		Total.....	2,604,397	535,000
Honduras.....	29,145				

According to the Deuts who has been looking over ties for investment, declare found in great abundance i to capital. While it has l coal lands, there were but 1 number had increased in 1 machinery, enterprise, and have taken place. The ex more localities in which mi a rich field of coal near Use

Statistics show that the Serbia doubled between 1 coal, 16,622 tons of soft co mined in the latter year.

Since the occupation of hands of German army eng the work upon them that it increased considerably.

ALGERIA

[Consul Arth

The chambers of commer nish regularly to the Govern needs of Algeria for all pr port, and also to make know month to move the product tion is expected to be in the Algiers not later than the 1 from France and to or fro differentiated.

The chambers of commer regarding coal, gasoline, pe the public works, railroads, furnished directly by the sei

WAR-RISK INSURAN

The Treasury Departmen Department of Commerce, Service transferred to the Navy Departments by Exec war-risk insurance act of Oc

This decision was rendere after submitting the matte General of the War Depart and employees of the Lightl to the service of the War ar order.

The value of the exports to the United States from the Bradford consular district during November, 1917, was \$744,209, a decline of \$643,206 compared with the corresponding month of 1916. This heavy falling off in shipments is only a continuance of what has been experienced in previous months of this year, due to the increasing difficulty of securing goods for civilian use; but railroad transport difficulties at and to Liverpool, growing out of the traffic workers' demand for higher wages, which was finally granted, also caused confusion and congestion that hindered exports from this district during the past week or two.

The principal item of last month's exports was cotton cloths (mainly linings, dyed and mercerized), which amounted to \$379,895, a large decrease as compared with \$717,864 in November, 1916. These cloths are now showing a very marked advance in price, which probably cause a lessened demand. No fleece wool was shipped last month, but exports of wool noils and waists (chiefly merino noils) amounted to \$59,275 (\$16,853 in November, 1916), and wool yarns (chiefly fancies) amounted to \$14,462 (\$2,748 in 1916). Spun silk Tussock yarns, which have been steadily advancing until the price is almost double that prior to the war, declined to \$28,647 (\$60,485 in 1916), while shipments of silk plushes and pile fabrics have entirely ceased. In wool goods, carpets have fallen to \$7,461 compared with \$20,412 in 1916; fancy woven worsteds none, plain woven worsteds, \$7,027 compared with \$35,437; fancy woven woolens, \$28,586 compared with \$67,182; and plain woven woolens, \$712 compared with \$16,796. Mohair cloths only amounted to \$39,209 against \$96,189; wool coat linings, \$37,787 against \$50,044; and wool dress goods, \$19,285 against \$49,785. On the other hand, the shipments of wool grease increased from \$1,442 to \$18,321, and raw human hair, of Chinese origin, also increased from \$10,702 to \$27,898.

Prospects for Wool Supplies.

As forecasting the exports from this district to the United States in the near future, it is of interest to note that at the monthly conference of the Wool Exports Subcommittee held on December 4 at the British War Trade Department, the chairman stated that having regard to the allocation of wool to the trade it would admit at present of practically no export of wool and raw materials except restricted quantities to the British Dominions and allies. The same state of affairs would apply to tops, yarns, shoddies, etc. So far as finished materials and piece goods were concerned, there was no intention at present to interfere. Referring to the necessity of economy in wool, the chairman also said that in view of the fact that the requirements of wool for military purposes were increasing, it would appear as if the export trade was going to vanish entirely with the exception of the trade in piece goods (i. e., finished cloth).

The monthly quantity of wool available during the period of December 1 to March 31 for civilian purposes in this country has been fixed at 9,000,000 pounds, which is a reduction in the monthly quantity available for such consumption in the last quarter of about 30 per cent. The Yorkshire Post, commenting on this matter said,

The Yorkshire Post Continues

PROPOSED NEW I

The budget committee of the council presented to the council a bill providing for the raising of the floating debt of the city of Paris to 810,000,000 francs, which would be contracted in 1918, with limitation of the general resources of the city to the amortization of the floating debt, of the issue of bonds for one year or for six months without the necessity, on the other hand, of additional sources, for increases in the number of carriers, and particularly for the increase in the cost of electricity.

[Consul E. Verne Richardson,

The boat service from Port Borden, Prince Edward Island, beginning to-day, passengers will proceed via Sackville and Cape Carleton (Point), the island to ferry route. One trip each Sackville at 1 p. m., Cape T. Port Borden at 4 p. m., Sackville at 7.05 p. m.

[Consul General Frederic V

A cable message from London said the Commercial Bank of Spain had been sold to the Argentine institution, with branches in Montevideo, and several other

inland streams and waterways of the country is borne out by a report just made to the Secretary of Commerce by Walter Parker, assistant to the Secretary of Commerce for inland water transportation. This report covers the six months ending December 31, 1917, and is concerned with the work that has been done by the Department of Commerce to encourage a more extended system of inland waterways.

The purpose of the campaign undertaken by the department has been twofold: First, to convince the public that commercial use of the navigable streams and waterways of the country has become necessary as a war measure and as an essential factor in the development of an adequate and economic system of transportation for the promotion of domestic and foreign trade after the war, and, second, to convince the public that properly constructed terminal facilities that will coordinate river, rail, and storage, plus modern boat lines, plus the business machinery required to systematize water transportation and render it efficient, will restore water transportation to an economic and practical basis.

Progress Made by Different Communities.

The following facts are given to show the definite progress that has been made by different communities recently in developing inland waterways:

St. Paul, Minneapolis, Moline, Rock Island, Davenport, Muscatine, on the upper Mississippi River, are now building modern terminal and storage equipment.

Tuscaloosa and Demopolis, on the Warrior River, and Montgomery, Selma, and Mobile, on the Alabama River, are preparing plans for terminals that will be constructed in the near future.

Memphis has voted \$500,000 in bonds for the construction of a terminal at that point.

Greenville, Miss., is also showing definite activity in this direction.

At La Salle, Ill., plans have been prepared for a river-and-rail terminal, with two slips for the development of an industrial district at that point.

Peoria is making plans to reclaim a large area of land in front of the city by the construction of a quay wall, with a modern terminal connecting with all railroads and belt lines at that point.

Kansas City, which has had a modern river terminal for several years, is now extending and improving the terminal through the addition of elevators.

A very active movement for the building of terminal equipment for the enlarged Erie Canal is now gaining impetus every day.

Government barges have been placed in service on the upper Mississippi by the War Department, and, through Government assistance, a new fleet is to be built for this service.

A successful service has also been established between Florence, Ala., and Peoria, Ill., and a fleet of barges and towboats has been ordered built for the enlargement of this service.

Sugar is now being moved by barge from Louisiana plantations to New Orleans through shallow channels because railroad cars have not been available.

Great impetus has been given the movement to open a navigation channel from the Great Lakes to the navigable Illinois River, thence to the Mississippi.

For the relief of Nashville's transportation problems the State of Tennessee has created a special commission and given it great powers.

Practical navigation of the Missouri River between Kansas City and St. Louis is being sustained.

Above Kansas City navigation for local purposes is successful where channel depth is sufficient.

Marked progress has been made at New Orleans in the development of a terminal and water-front storage system, coordinating river, rail, and ocean.

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The exploitation of manganese ore in Mysore ranks among the chief activities of the State in the recovery of mineral deposits, and for some years past an industry on more or less extensive commercial lines has been in progress. The principal sources of supply are Kumsi, in the Shimoga district, and Shankargudda, where the workings have shown that a notable improvement in grade occurs at several points at a limited depth. This improvement has been shown by analyses, and recently information has been received to the effect that the ore in some of the laterite, which averaged about 30 per cent manganese, has now been succeeded at a depth of 25 or more feet by ore running 45 to 46 per cent. Much of the float ore in lateritic soil and gravel is of comparatively low grade, and beneath it ores of better grade have been found. This is particularly the case when the float is composed of pisolitic ore, and it seems to be the rule that the pisolitic ores, when "in situ," are restricted to the more superficial portions of the deposits. From the viewpoint of practical prospecting, it is important to find that low-grade float and surface ores are sometimes underlain by higher grade ores and that surface trenches to a depth of 10 feet or more may reveal only poor ores and cause abandonment of work, leaving better ores below undetected and untouched.

Cost of Getting Ore to Market.

The cost of winning the ore and taking it to a market, is a very variable one, and depends on the character of the deposit, distance from a railway, and freight charges. In the Central Provinces contractors are paid from 30 to 60 rupees per 1,000 cubic feet of stacked clean ore. At $16\frac{1}{2}$ cubic feet to the ton, this comes to 8 annas to 1 rupee per ton of ore (rupee=16 annas=32 cents). An additional payment of 5 to 6 rupees per 1,000 cubic feet of excavation is made to cover the cost of removing waste material, the proportion of which to ore varies considerably. This charge may amount to 1 anna to 1 rupee per ton of ore, making the contract charge 9 annas to 2 rupees per ton. Dead work, plants, tools, and administration may vary from 8 annas to 1 rupee 8 annas. Transport to railway by cart costs $2\frac{1}{2}$ to $2\frac{3}{4}$ annas per ton-mile, and loading into railway wagons 1 to $1\frac{1}{2}$ annas, while various wharf dues at Bombay vary from $11\frac{1}{2}$ annas to 1 rupee 8 annas, and at Marmagao amount to 1 rupee 3 annas. Ocean freights, including insurance, have varied from 12 to 15 rupees, and charges at destination run from 14 annas to 1 rupee 11 annas. These charges give an idea of the average cost of ore c. i. f., English and continental ports.

In Mysore there are comparatively few figures relating to large consignments of ore. Those dispatched by the Workington Iron and Steel Co. go mainly to its own works in England, while much of the ore obtained by other licensees has been sold at contract prices on the railway or at Marmagao.

Expenses to be Met by Producers.

At Kumsi and Shankargudda, in the Shimoga district, where the most extensive workings are situated, the average contract rate is about 2 rupees 2 annas per 100 cubic feet of excavation, excluding

The Minister of Reconstruction has established, in conjunction with the Treasury, a committee on financial facilities after the war, the object of which is to anticipate and provide methods to overcome the financial difficulties that will arise in connection with commerce and industry. The vast number of factories which have been diverted from their normal trade to war work will face a critical period between the time when hostilities cease and the time when it is possible for them to return to their pre-war activities, for an interval more or less lengthy must occur during which it will not be possible to revert to former productiveness, while the question of cost in restoring factories to conditions formerly prevailing will require careful consideration and the preparation of plans to provide the necessary money and capital. Apart from that aspect there is the certainty that largely increased costs of raw materials, higher wages, and a much greater value on stock in hand or on credit will have to be met, requiring fresh capital, while longer credit may be necessary.

Some of the most important matters with which the committee will be empowered to deal will be the extent of the aid that banks and financial houses will be able to render; if such help should appear likely to prove insufficient, what other sources of credit can be sought; and by what method can the required capital be most efficiently distributed, in the event of a shortage, among essential trades and commerce.

Committee Represents all Branches of Commerce and Industry.

The members of the committee appointed to deal with this fundamental subject of finance and capital after the war include representatives of banking, financial, commercial, and industrial circles, and are not restricted to London concerns, but include those vitally interested in industries and workshops throughout the country. The chairman of the committee, Sir R. V. Vassar-Smith, Bart. (chairman of Lloyd's Bank, one of the two largest banking corporations in the United Kingdom), in a recent address before the Institute of Bankers, said:

The financing of our industries will be immensely facilitated by trade organization. During the war we have seen our productive industries organized on a large scale and under the control of the State. Both organization and control were forced upon us by war. As regards State control, I hope and believe that the necessity for it is temporary. As to trade organization, I firmly believe that the necessity for it will remain after the war. It is no new thing, this tendency to production and organization on a large scale, though it has not shown itself so much in this country as in some others. The day of small industries on individual lines is gone. Our manufacturers and traders must organize for united effort. This will have the closest bearing on questions of finance. An unstable, unorganized industry is the despair of bankers. I have confidence in stating that an industry organized on large lines has seldom lacked financial support in this country, and in spite of financial stringency which we shall doubtless have to face, it is not likely to suffer in the future.

It is stated that the committee will commence work immediately.

What was described as the first motor car manufactured entirely in New South Wales was recently sent on a trial trip from Sydney to Melbourne, a distance of 600 miles. The car is a small, two-seated automobile; all parts, including the engine, were manufactured in New South Wales.

. There is probably no country where the manufacture of walking sticks is so general as in the Straits Settlements. The Straits Settlements carries a cane, not only in the Straits Settlements; and, in addition, the Straits Settlements women, these being used in the Straits Settlements resorts but not to a great extent.

The winter months are the best for the weather is often very pleasant and also unusually great. The use of umbrellas and walking sticks is not common in the Straits Settlements.

Imports of Raw Materials.

The British imports of raw materials for the manufacture of walking sticks (including basket making) and sticks are shown in the following table.

Imported from—	
China.....	
Hongkong.....	
Japan.....	
Straits Settlements.....	
Other countries.....	
Total number.....	
Total value.....	

Thus it is evident that the quantity of raw materials imported has been the rise in cost (due to the rise in freight rates) that the 10 per cent. increase in the very little less than the 5 per cent. increase in the charges have been one of the main causes of the increase in the cost of imports.

Sources of Raw Materials—For the Manufacture of Walking Sticks.

The very large number of raw materials imported into the United Kingdom as shown in the following table for the manufacture of walking sticks are excluded from these raw materials for the manufacture of walking sticks, bamboo for the manufacture of walking sticks, the percentage that enter the Straits Settlements during the year 1913, previously.

The principal sources of raw materials for the manufacture of walking sticks are the Straits Settlements, Hongkong, and other countries consisting chiefly of the Straits Settlements. In 1913, 3,400,000 canes were imported from the Straits Settlements and over 500,000 from the Straits Settlements for the manufacture of walking sticks ceased.

No unmounted canes or raw materials for the manufacture of walking sticks to the Straits Settlements.

Exports of Umbrellas and Umbrella Parts.

As to umbrellas, British manufacturers, in addition to supplying the home demand, enter to a considerable extent into the export trade. The number and value of the umbrellas exported during 1913-1916 were:

Umbrella exports.	1913	1914	1915	1916
Dozens.....	293, 182	244, 587	133, 775	145, 146
Value.....	\$1, 533, 303	\$1, 281, 009	\$768, 571	\$1, 012, 928

The number of umbrellas exported in 1916 was about half that for 1913, but because of a rise in average value from \$5.25 to \$7 per dozen the difference in the total values for the two years was not so great.

Umbrella parts also are manufactured in the United Kingdom for shipment to foreign countries. The value of these exports in 1913 was \$819,416; in 1914, \$540,795; in 1915, \$629,010; and in 1916, \$800,311. The export value of umbrella parts has therefore been maintained at about the same level notwithstanding the war. The finished umbrellas are exported principally to India, British West Africa, and Hongkong, the cargoes consisting to a large extent of cheap cotton umbrellas for the native trade. Umbrella parts are sent to India, Australia, and Spain. The last-named country purchased these goods in Germany before the war but has now become a good customer for British umbrella parts.

Effect of War on Umbrella Trade.

The manufacture of umbrellas and walking sticks is carried on throughout the United Kingdom—to a considerable extent by small shops, but there are also several important factories. The conditions affecting the trade are somewhat diverse because the output of many establishments is confined to the cheaper grades, but it may be stated in a general way that before the war there was a marked tendency to turn out better goods. This trend reached its apex in 1913, when the umbrella trade was in excellent condition. Toward the close of 1913 there was a falling off in the demand, and 1914 opened in a weak way. One of the largest manufacturers states that the output of umbrella sticks for the first half of 1914 was 25 per cent less than during the first half of 1913.

Considerable improvement was anticipated in the second half of 1914, but the outbreak of war in August completely changed the situation, and for two or three months thereafter business was practically at a standstill. There was, however, a revival in 1915, and trade conditions continued to improve until the end of 1916. Since the beginning of 1917 manufacturers report a distinct falling off, and the first half of the year approximated very closely the conditions that existed in the first half of 1914. These trade fluctuations may be attributed to the fact that as soon as the nation settled down to war an increased amount of money immediately went into circulation, especially among the working classes.

brella trade, and to this cause is laid the falling off in the demand. Practically all the large manufacturers agree that the prospects for good business during the fall and winter season of 1917-18 seem very favorable.

Universal military service has had much to do with popularizing what may be called military styles in umbrellas. The most popular styles at the present time are those with leather straps on the handles and leather applications of various kinds. These styles have had great vogue and are still a very prominent feature of the trade. The general effect of the war has therefore been to considerably increase the trade in women's umbrellas owing to the fact that so many women are now engaged in industries of various kinds and earning good wages, and, at the same time, to diminish the demand for men's goods, as so many of them are now in the military forces. A higher class of goods than that formerly used has become popular.

War's Effect on the Walking-Stick Trade.

The United Kingdom has long taken the lead in the manufacture of walking sticks, and a large proportion of the output was made of raw material grown in the British Isles, such as ash, chestnut, oak, and similar woods. The importation of finished sticks has always been small, but before the war a considerable amount of raw or partly finished material was imported, such as malacca canes, ebony, wanghees, roof bamboo, nilgherri, etc. Cherry sticks and what is known as "Congo" wood were formerly imported from Germany and Austria, where they are grown. For a time after the outbreak of war the stocks on hand, both here and in neutral countries, met the demand, but gradually the trade has become more dependent upon home-grown goods, and consequently a greatly increased demand for domestic raw materials has arisen.

The military vogue has also had great effect on the style of walking sticks, and there has been a large demand during the past two or three years for sticks and canes for military use. [In this connection the report on Irish walking sticks in *COMMERCE REPORTS* for Apr. 19, 1916, is of interest.] These include plain knobbed canes, knobbed canes with leather handles, and swagger sticks. There is, besides, an unusually large call for ordinary heavy crook canes which are now used to a considerable extent by wounded soldiers. This increase in the demand for new styles has counterbalanced in quantity but not in value the former demand for higher-priced walking sticks for city use.

As regards prices, it has been found that both labor and material have had a steady upward tendency since the war began. Some canes and sticks which were largely used have increased 100 per cent in cost, and certain of the better kinds are now practically unobtainable. Generally speaking, it may be said that an approximate advance of 25 per cent in price has taken place on the lower-grade goods and probably 30 to 40 per cent on the higher qualities. Increasing difficulty is also being experienced by manufacturers in obtaining sufficient supplies of metal fittings, materials for umbrella frames, and textile materials for umbrella covers.

the work is to be performed. In cases where the time limit is too short to permit firms to submit tenders, they should ask to be placed on the mailing lists of such offices to receive notices calling for future supplies or work of a similar nature.]

Sheet steel, No. 4967.—Sealed proposals will be received by the Lighthouse Inspector, Tompkinsville, N. Y., until January 2, 1918, for furnishing 20,000 pounds sheet steel.

Subsistence stores, No. 4968.—Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the Depot Quartermaster, 211 American Bank Building, Kansas City, Mo., until January 2, 1918, for delivery on or before January 15, 1918, of evaporated milk, canned string beans, canned apricots, spices, brushes, chocolate candy, canned fruit, crackers, malted milk, currants and raisins, salt, canned soups, etc.

Dragline excavators, No. 4969.—Sealed proposals will be received by the Reclamation Service, Department of the Interior, Washington, D. C., until February 5, 1918, for furnishing electrically operated dragline excavators, for the North Platte project, Nebraska.

Kerosene, No. 4970.—Sealed proposals will be received by the Lighthouse Inspector, Tompkinsville, N. Y., until January 17, 1918, for furnishing and delivering 250,900 gallons of kerosene.

Steel towers, No. 4971.—Sealed proposals will be received at the Bureau of Yards and Docks, Navy Department, Washington, D. C., until January 21, 1918, for constructing two 125-foot steel towers on concrete and timber pile foundations; one 12,000-gallon water tank; dormitory building (19 feet by 53 feet 6 inches) and receiving building (19 feet by 25 feet), both wood frame, one story on timber pile foundation, including all equipment and furniture, water, electric light and power, and sewerage system, at Naval Radio Station, Barataria Bay, La. Refer to Specifications No. 2686.

Sale of steam boilers, No. 4972.—Sealed proposals will be received by the Lighthouse Inspector, Boston, Mass., until January 8, 1918, for the sale of two small steam boilers.

Dredging, No. 4973.—Sealed proposals will be received at the United States Engineer's Office, 401 Customhouse, San Francisco, Cal., until January 21, 1918, for dredging in Oakland Harbor, Cal.

CROPS IN BULGARIA.

[Consul General D. I. Murphy, Sofia, Oct. 30.]

Because of the lack of working hands and beasts of burden, the harvests in Bulgaria have been gathered with great difficulty, but generally they have been abundant, especially in northern Bulgaria. It is impossible, however, to ascertain even approximately the extent or the value of any particular crop. All accounts agree that in quality and quantity, wheat, rye, oats, barley, and millet far surpass last year's yield. The cotton crop has been a little below the average, while the flax crop has been an especially good one.

Grapes have flourished and are of finer quality ever known, though in some districts the vines suffered from hailstorms. Fruits of all kinds, especially peaches, pears, apples, olives, figs, plums, and quinces, have been produced in plenty, and the same is true of walnuts, hazelnuts, and chestnuts.

Hay is of better quality than usual, the two crops of the season having been abundant and the quality excellent. Of alfalfa there

tive offices. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and state opportunity number. The Bureau does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases. Symbols: * Reported by American consular officers; † Reported by commercial attachés and commercial agents; ‡ Direct inquiries received by the Bureau.

In considering the following "opportunities" special regard should be had to the laws and regulations governing export licenses and trading with the enemy.

Automobiles.....	26176	Machines.....	26175
Agricultural machinery.....	26178	Office supplies.....	26173
Cinematograph films and machinery.....	26177	Paper.....	26174
Conduits.....	26171	Pharmaceutical products.....	26168
Cotton goods.....	26167, 26172	Silk goods.....	26172
Electrical lamps.....	26169	Wearing apparel.....	26167, 26172
Laces.....	26172	Woolen goods.....	26167

26167.*—A firm in Tunisia desires to purchase cotton and woolen textiles, especially suitings; also hosiery, knit goods, and kindred lines. Quotations should be made f. o. b. New York with estimates on freight rates. Payment will be made by letter of credit or cash against documents. Correspondence should be in French, if possible. References.

26168.†—A manufacturer and exporter of pharmaceutical products in France desires an agency for pharmaceutical specialties and will also purchase outright in moderate quantities. Payment will be made in 30 days or by cash against documents. Correspondence should be in French. References.

26169.*—A firm in England desires to purchase electrical inverted lamps, 16 candlepower and upward. Quotations should be made f. o. b. New York. Payment will be made by cash against shipping documents. References.

26170.*—Representative agencies and commissions for any class of American goods are desired by a man in Brazil. Cash will be paid. Correspondence may be in Portuguese, French, English, or Spanish. References.

26171.*—A firm in England desires a buying agency for enameled insulated conduits, $\frac{3}{4}$ inch in diameter, in 5,000 lots for electrical wire for Calcutta. Quotations should be made f. o. b. New York. Payment will be by cash at port of shipment against shipping documents or drafts on London, shipping documents attached. References.

26172.*—A wholesale dealer in Switzerland desires an agency for silk goods, novelties in cloth, dry goods, woolen and cotton goods, laces, and dyed goods in large quantities. Cash will be paid against documents. Correspondence may be in English. References.

26173.*—An agency is desired by a man in Portugal for office requisites, carbon papers, typewriting papers and ribbons, pens, nibs, ink and pencil erasers, sealing wax, pencils, paper fasteners, etc. Samples are requested in duplicate, carefully boxed or crated. Quotations should be made f. o. b. New York, including commission. Correspondence may be in English. References.

26174.*—A man in England desires an agency to sell goods to wholesalers in England and France. The goods interested in are copying ink pencils, in large quantities, stationers' sundries, and paper of every description. Payment will be made by sight draft or cash against documents at port of shipment.

26175.†—A manufacturing firm in France desires to purchase and to secure an agency for machine and handsaws for metal, drills, files, etc. Correspondence should be in French. References.

26176.*—A man in Switzerland desires a wholesale agency for Belgium after the war for automobiles, agricultural machinery, tractors, and accessories for such machinery. Correspondence may be in English. References.

26177.*—A firm in England desires to act as agent for cinematograph films and machines and to represent film makers in Calcutta, Bombay, Rangoon, and Lahore, in India. Quotations should be made f. o. b. New York. Shipping to be made by first-class mail parcels. References.

WASHINGTON : GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE : 1917



Coal shortage in St. John's, Newfoundland
Shortage of tobacco and cigarette in France
Growth of native Chinese banking in Japan
Consular agent aids trade extension in Japan
Three new paper-making materials in London
bank amalgamation
British experience with corrugated ships
House construction in Hongkong

The Tonnage Committee of St. John's is much worse off than there are no available vessels. No action is taken in the matter until the close of the winter. In recommendation, the Government is effected bituminous coal, and that not more than ten fortnight to any one holder. A penalty for a violation of the regulations do not apply.

The public has recently learned that the French retail tobacco and cigarettes of French manufacture are sold at a price 10 per centation the authorities have decided that it is due to the great increase since the beginning of the war in the tobacco manufactories.

During the past few months, the troops at the front, in addition to being gratuitously supplied with food, are supplied with smoking tobacco and of course with societies and subsequent to the war amount to about one-fourth of the total and about one-sixth of the total.

population have necessarily been diminished.

Arrivals of Leaf Tobacco from Abroad

Furthermore, the arrivals of leaf tobacco from abroad, and principally from the United States, have undergone a large decrease because of shipping conditions. The French authorities, in order to protect their stocks and make sure of the quantity needed for the troops, curtailed the manufacture of smoking tobacco, and this in turn has led to a curtailment of the deliveries of smoking tobacco to retail dealers.

In order to avoid treating certain sections of France more favorably than others, a certain fixed allotment has been made to each city, based upon the sales during 1916—an allotment equivalent to about two-thirds of the previous consumption. The Government states, however, that unless unusual circumstances arise the present shortage will be only temporary.

GROWTH OF NATIVE CHINESE BANKING.

[Commercial Agent A. W. Ferrin.]

The Shanghai Commercial & Savings Bank (which was established in 1915 by a group of Chinese capitalists and is managed entirely by native Chinese) reports individual deposits of \$1,596,057 Mexican and savings accounts of \$72,031 Mexican. This is 16 times the original capital of the bank, which was \$100,000. The constant growth of business has, however, necessitated the increase of the capital twice, by \$100,000 each time, making the present capital \$300,000 Mexican.

The purpose of this bank, four of whose staff are Chinese trained in America, is to operate along American lines. Its banking department handles checking accounts, receives fixed deposits, discounts commercial paper, and buys and sells bills of exchange, making a specialty of domestic exchange. A novel and decidedly American feature is the "ladies' department," a special counter and a room for women customers, which is under the charge of an English-speaking woman teller, who was educated at the McTyeire Girls' School in Shanghai. The savings department of the bank allows 4 per cent on savings accounts and larger interest on fixed and special deposits. A safe-deposit vault for the use of customers is now under construction.

An evening school for the instruction of employees in Chinese and English and in the theory and practice of banking is conducted by the bank, and has been so successful that two of the pupil-employees will be sent to New York next year for a course of post-graduate instruction in some New York bank.

CONSULAR AGENT AIDS TRADE EXTENSION IN JAPAN.

American Consular Agent Willard de L. Kingsbury, of Yokkaichi, Japan, is now visiting the United States, and during the months of January and February he will visit Washington, Baltimore, Philadelphia, Newark, New York, Boston, Pittsburgh, Cleveland, Detroit, Chicago, St. Paul, St. Louis, St. Joseph, New Orleans, San Francisco, and several other cities. Business men who desire to arrange conferences with him regarding Japanese trade may address the Consular Bureau of the State Department, Washington, D. C.

The Imperial Institute experiments with three *monostachya* leaves from *calyx* timber from East *Randii* from Rhodesia.

E. monostachya, F. Mu natural order Restiaceæ an stems or so-called "leaves vary in height from 2 to brown scales at the base, single sheath just below the a sample of the leaves was ern Australia for the purpose would be of commercial value or other purposes. The leaves parts by weight of caustic hours at 140° C. and yielded the same as that from Alg. The pulp is, however, inferior esparto, and the unbleached paper, while the pulp is so

Furthermore, the paper shows small bright-yellow resinous substance of which with alcohol. This defect by more drastic treatment instead of 16 parts by weight also considerably improved it must be added that at unbleached pulp from the the paper shrinks considerably

Good Pulp Material—Fiber of

Specimens of the leaves pared from them by native paper manufacturers, who produce a paper having strength from esparto, straw, and all three.

From the results of this colca leaves would form a of paper. They could not Kingdom in the raw state they could be used in Australian paper of high quality, either

A sample of the leaves a them were submitted to find was somewhat harsh for and deficient in strength, merical value. A few experiments

difficult and tedious operation, though it may be somewhat easier when fresh leaves are used. It seems unlikely that any existing fiber-extracting machinery could be used for the extraction of the fiber, and special machinery would probably have to be devised. In view of the poor quality of the fiber as extracted by hand, it scarcely seems worth while to consider the question of special machinery, but it might be possible to prepare the fiber from the fresh leaves by a retting process such as that used for jute or flax, and it was suggested to the Australian authorities that a few pounds of fiber should be prepared in this way if possible for further examination and commercial valuation.

Large-Scale Experiments Still Needed for Neoboutonia.

Neoboutonia macrocalyx, Pax (natural order Euphorbiaceæ), attains a height of 50 to 60 feet and a diameter of 15 to 20 inches. It is peculiar to tropical Africa, being found in Uganda, East Africa Protectorate, and German East Africa. According to information supplied by the conservator of forests of East Africa the tree is abundant in the forests of the Kikuyu Escaroment and Aberdare Mountains in that Protectorate, where it grows at an elevation of 7,000 to 9,000 feet. It reproduces itself readily from seed, and the young trees are fast growing. When growing in dense formation it produces a straight bole free from branches. The timber is difficult to saw into boards or scantling on account of its "wooly" nature, and it is of little value in the building or joinery trade. The only use to which it might be put would be for making rough crates, but at present there is no demand for these in East Africa.

With a view to ascertaining the value of the timber as a source of pulp for paper-making specimens were sent to the Imperial Institute in January, 1916. The wood was mostly yellowish in color, with grayish markings. It had a "wooly" surface and was soft and light. Attempts to smooth the surface of the wood by planing were unsuccessful, and the freshly sawn surface, although not showing loose fibers, was very soft. The timber was free from knots.

Four paper-making trials were carried out at the Institute. In experiments Nos. 1 and 2 16 parts and in experiment No. 3 20 parts of 4 per cent of caustic soda were used, and in experiment No. 4 24 parts of 6 per cent soda. Under the conditions of experiments 1, 2, and 3 the wood was not thoroughly broken up, but it could be converted into a workable pulp by prolonged beating. The unbleached pulp thus obtained produced a brown paper which did not shrink on drying and was opaque. The pulp bleached easily and yielded an almost opaque paper of good strength.

More drastic treatment, i. e., under the conditions of experiment 4, reduced the wood to a condition in which it was easily converted into pulp. The color was considerably improved by this treatment, which, moreover, was attended by a loss of only 4 per cent in the yield of unbleached pulp (46 per cent, as against about 50 per cent from experiments 1, 2, and 3). The pulp bleached easily and yielded an opaque and almost white paper, which did not shrink on drying.

It is evident from the foregoing results that the wood of *N. macrocalyx* yields a good pulp when it is treated under conditions similar

spruce and other soft woods. The fibers are rather shorter than those of spruce wood, but the pulp felts well, bleaches easily, and makes a strong paper. The yield of pulp is rather higher than in the case of spruce, and the timber should therefore form a good source of paper pulp. Before definitely recommending the timber for the manufacture of pulp and paper, however, it will be necessary to have a large-scale trial carried out at a paper mill.

Experiments with *Brachystegia* Bark.

A sample of *Brachystegia* bark was received from Rhodesia in September, 1916, together with herbarium specimens of the tree. The herbarium specimens were submitted to Kew, where the plant was identified as *Brachystegia Randii*, Bak. f. (natural order Leguminosae). This is a large tree, known in the vernacular as "musasa," and is exceedingly common throughout the greater part of Mashonaland. The timber is soft and of little value commercially, although it is much used by the natives for hut building. The sample received at the Imperial Institute consisted of ribbons of the inner bark of the plant. The material was mostly of a light brown color, but a fair proportion was dark reddish-brown.

A small quantity of fiber was prepared by boiling with dilute sodium carbonate solution, but it was found to be much interlaced and therefore unsuitable for spinning purposes. It seems possible that by retting the bark ribbons a coarse fiber suitable for rope making might be obtained, but it is unlikely that such fiber would be of much value.

The results of three paper-making trials carried out at the Institute gave a yield of 35 per cent of pulp when 16 parts of caustic soda were used, 32 per cent when 24 parts were used, and 34 per cent when 20 parts were used. The unbleached pulp was in all three cases of dark color and made a strong, opaque, dark-brown paper. The pulp bleached easily and quickly and gave a white, opaque paper which did not shrink on drying and was of good quality.

It seems unlikely that a fiber of value for textile or cordage purposes could be prepared from this *Brachystegia* bark. The bark is more likely to be of use for making paper, though it yields only 33 per cent of unbleached pulp, which is distinctly low for a paper-making material; but the pulp is of good quality and the bark would no doubt be salable if offered in large and regular quantities. The export of the bark from Rhodesia is, however, not likely to prove remunerative, as it would probably not realize more than £5 (\$24) per ton in normal times in the United Kingdom, in competition with baobab bark, which contains 60 per cent of cellulose and is worth £7 to £8 (\$34 to \$39) per ton. It would therefore be necessary to convert it into "half stuff" in Rhodesia and ship it in this form to Europe. For the manufacture of "half stuff," soda and other chemicals would be required, as well as considerable supplies of fuel and water, and in view of this it is doubtful whether a pulp industry would be remunerative in Rhodesia. In this connection the quantity of bark likely to be available and the cost of collection are important factors, but information on these points is not yet available.

One of the most important fusions of British banks during recent years has just been arranged. The institutions concerned are the London & Provincial Bank and the London & South Western Bank, which are to amalgamate as from December 31, 1917, under the title of the London Provincial & South Western Bank (Ltd.). The London & South Western Bank was established in 1862, its sphere of operations being London and the suburbs. Its branches number about 200. The London & Provincial Bank was established in 1864, and its operations extend over London and various provincial towns, including the business centers of South Wales. It has over 300 branches and subbranches.

The amalgamated bank will have a subscribed capital of \$20,682,625, of which \$10,342,000 will be paid up. Its reserve fund will amount to \$14,599,000 and current and deposit account balances to about \$340,655,000. In the matter of deposit and account balances the new combination will be the sixth largest bank in the United Kingdom. The London City & Midland Bank is the largest with \$875,970,000. Lloyd's Bank is second with \$686,176,000, and the London County & Westminster Bank is third with \$569,380,000.

Terms of Amalgamation.

Under the scheme adopted the London & Provincial shareholders will retain their present holdings, while 225,000 £10 (\$48.67) shares of the amalgamated bank, on each of which £5 (\$24.33) will be paid up, will be allotted to the London & South Western Bank in exchange for its share capital of 300,000 shares of £10 each, of which £4 (\$19.47) is paid up. Thus London & South Western shareholders will receive three new shares for every four of the old ones. The Provincial Bank's shares stand at £17 (\$82.73), while the South Western's shares are now quoted at £12½ (\$62.05), so that three of the former are almost exactly equal in value to four of the latter.

The scheme thus seems to be a very attractive one from the London & South Western shareholders' point of view, for they will have their outstanding liability reduced from £24 (\$116.80) on every four existing shares to £15 (\$73) on every three new shares. In addition, it is stated that their dividends will, on the basis of past results, be apparently increased by over 1 per cent.

Advantages of Combination.

It appears that the most recent fusions of London banks have resulted in the absorption of a comparatively small institution by one of the leading banks, but the present combination is that of two important concerns of about the same size with different connections and interests. The London & South Western Bank has always made a special feature of foreign business, which has been considerably developed during the past 10 years and which, in volume, is probably as large as that of any other bank. On the other hand, the London & Provincial Bank has not, up to the present time, transacted foreign business, but under the amalgamation the customers of its 353 branches will be able to transact their foreign business through their own bank.

Neither do the two spheres of operations as regards domestic business clash, because the London & South Western's principal business

Bank has extended its operating not only South Wales, Birmingham, and a number of

[For notices of two other recapitalizations see COMMERCE REPORT.

BRITISH EXPERIENCE

[Consul General Report]

Considerable interest has resulted from the recent publication of the Ericsson Ship Corporation, setting up the claim by his concerns have proved respect.

The corrugated-steel ship distinguished mainly by the fact that it is obtained by deep corrugations.

Strength and Economy of Operation

Mr. Ericsson in his statement says: "The shipbuilding Co. would build many of the strongest, owing to the fact that they are built in their working." He continues:

In my experience during the last few years, it is necessary for the ordinary ships of the *Monitoria*, pioneer of the new type, to meet the ends meet, but made a profit in 1910, and September 30, 1911, to pay dividends of 8 per cent for depreciation, etc. The profit toward which the freight on the sister ships amounted to £1,620. The results obtained under such conditions were so marked that this company was closed on October, 1911.

These two steamers during the last few years, which enable them to make a substantial profit, and write off large amounts of the foundation of its financial success. The owners, both at home and abroad, have found the *Monitor* type of cargo steamer to be the most economical. 10 steamers have been built with a carrying capacity of 34,238 tons. The flat-sided type the dead-weight carrying capacity represents an increase of 10 per cent. The results obtained under such conditions were so marked that this company was closed on October, 1911.

Adapted to Present Conditions.

In my opinion, in bringing the shipbuilding industry to the Tyne we have the most important economic development that has ever taken place, and it is our duty to increase the carrying capacity of the ship to the utmost economy in fuel. The results obtained under such conditions were so marked that this company was closed on October, 1911.

[The construction of the shipbuilding industry is mentioned in COMMERCE REPORT.]

In spite of war and financial conditions growing out of the war there has been a marked increase in the construction of dwellings and particularly of tenement and apartment houses in Hongkong. Much the greater part of this construction has been of a type of dwelling rather peculiar to Hongkong and designed to meet the needs of the well-to-do Chinese, particularly the large number of Chinese who have come to Hongkong to avoid political troubles and resulting disorder in the cities and districts of the Pearl River delta. These dwellings resemble flats and consist mostly of great blocks of three, four, and five story buildings divided into narrow sections of which usually one floor represents a family dwelling, although in the more pretentious and higher-class structures a family may have all three or four floors, and have, in fact, an independent dwelling, although it may be only a part of a long row of such dwellings forming actually a single structure.

Materials Used in Building—Encouraging Suburban Movement.

These dwellings are almost entirely of brick and stucco, with a considerable amount of stonework, in the Hongkong fashion. They have the large verandahs with windows peculiar to Hongkong and South China architecture. Usually the better-class houses have a fair amount of modern plumbing, including English and American bathroom fittings. In this respect, however, there has been less progress because of the difficulty of arranging for modern sewerage. The greater portion of Hongkong is still on the Chinese and Far Eastern basis of disposition of sewerage by coolie labor.

There has also been a considerable increase in the number of modern detached residences for use of Europeans and wealthy Chinese. Some of these dwellings may fairly be said to be in a distinctly American style. In this class of residence construction there is a distinct tendency to get away from congested districts and into the outlying districts of the colony. The increasing use of automobiles is rendering this practicable, and it is the announced policy of the Hongkong Government to encourage such a movement by the improvement of existing roads for automobile traffic and the extension of the road and street system of the colony into districts suitable for residential purposes. The work already done by the colony in this line is considerable and the results have been encouraging.

Construction of Apartments and Detached Houses.

Considerable work has also been done in the construction of modern apartment houses. The climate of Hongkong is not conducive to the success of such structures except in favorable localities, but within the past three years three notable examples of this class of buildings have been offered the public—two in Kowloon and a particularly new, large, and well-appointed one half-way up the mountain which forms the chief portion of Hongkong. These buildings have been a notable success and are popular, and the construction of other such buildings is expected. There has been considerable construction work on detached and semidetached houses of similar style and capacity in lots by real-estate companies. These houses, too, have been a success.

the influx of wealthy Chinese property at whatever price the number of dwellings available. The housing problem has been serious. It has always been high in Hong Kong of the climate and the expense is also because of the high tax on land. It now amounts to about 20 per cent of the usual because of the extraordinary conditions are somewhat better than they were yet to be done and this accounts for the construction of this class of buildings.

Houses for Government Employees

Included in the construction of government houses and apartment houses which is a definite policy of the Government for the last few years, with the result that the officers and employees of the Government are getting high rents, and uncertainty of the houses and apartments vary in the equipment according to the status of the occupant. As a rule houses or apartments for civil service, etc., are kept separate.

American Materials in Construction

At present an unusual proportion of the materials used in construction work, particularly cement, is a particularly large item, largely of American and local origin or Japanese. Considerable quantities are imported from the United States. In all construction the use of locally made substitutes is being encouraged. The cost of goods in the United States are forcing the manufacturers to not have been made in material. Once established, such industries will flourish in the future.

THE YEAR'S FLOOD

[Consul General]

From all accounts more floods than ever before. Plums, usually so fine or so abundant. The quantity as they have been compiled from the plums have been gathered in Kula, Kotchane, and Kriva. Produced in plenty, the yield amounting to 13,200,000 pounds. The plums have been noticeably large, but not so many.

In the small orchards throughout the territory referred to, the harvest was considerable. It is possible to give even an estimate of the aggregate it will almost certainly reach.

Just before the war the new German railway from Dar-es-Salaam, on the east coast of Africa to Kigoma, on Lake Tanganyika, was opened to traffic. This line traversed German East Africa from east to west and would have had great effect upon the development of the colony, being the main artery for both import and export traffic. It was also planned that passengers and freight would be transported from Europe over this route as far toward the interior as Stanleyville in Belgian Kongo, more quickly and cheaply than by entering from the west coast and traveling over the Matadi-Leopoldville railroad and steamers on the Kongo River.

The line from Dar-es-Salaam to Kigoma is 780 miles in length, but since the occupation of a large part of the country by Belgian and British forces, it has been closed for trade purposes. Notice has now been received, however, that orders have been given to the effect that all towns on the line between Dar-es-Salaam and Tabora, 530 miles inland, will be reopened to trade on January 1, 1918. Firms desirous of using these facilities must make their own arrangements for landing and shipping cargo, and inquiries should be addressed to the British Senior Political Officer at Dar-es-Salaam. The northern part of the colony has already been reopened to trade, and it is considered that there no longer exists any reason why the central part of East Africa should not also be given similar facilities.

Revenue of Gold Coast Railways for 1916.

The Gold Coast Government railways now comprise two lines from the seacoast to the interior, one starting at the port of Secondee and running through the gold-mining district to Coomassie, a distance of 168 miles, with a branch of 20 miles to Prestea, and the other leaving the port of Accra and traversing the cocoa regions to Koforidua, a distance of 52 miles; thus the combined length of the Gold Coast Government system is 240 miles. According to the report of the general manager, which appeared in the *African World*, the total revenue for 1916 amounted to \$2,384,157, as compared with \$2,176,761 during 1915, an increase of \$207,396. The principal receipts were for passenger traffic, which amounted to \$589,800, and freight \$1,742,080, both showing an increase over the preceding year. The advance in receipts from passenger traffic is undoubtedly due, to a considerable extent, to the 15 per cent increase in rates. There is very little traveling for pleasure on these lines and the railway is mostly used by persons engaged in commerce and industry.

Manganese Now Exported—Other Freight.

A feature of the freight traffic is the new trade in manganese. The exportation of this ore was only begun in September, 1916, and during the last three months of the year the shipments over the railway amounted to 4,338 tons, and it is anticipated that the present year will show a large increase in the export of this article. A large deposit of the ore exists some 33 miles north of Secondee and within easy reach of the railway. A station has been constructed at this point together with sidings and a short branch line leading directly to the deposit.

way.

The principal changes in freight rates in 1916 were an increase on ground nuts and a war surcharge of 10 per cent on a number of items, excluding, however, country produce for local trade, provisions, cotton, machinery, tin, salt, and oil for fuel and lighting purposes. There was a decrease in rates for machinery, mining tools, maize, and guinea corn. The sliding freight scale on tin was abolished and a fixed rate introduced which has resulted in a decrease in rate of \$6.08 per ton when the price of tin is less than \$924.63 per ton, and \$30.05 when the price exceeds that value.

Chief Products Carried on Nigerian Railway—Motor Transport.

The principal revenue of the Nigerian Railway is derived from the freight traffic and the chief increases in goods carried have been ground nuts, ginned cotton, tin ore, palm kernels, cocoa, and kola nuts. A small increase during 1916 was also reported in hides and skins, kerosene oil, petrol, salt, and palm oil, but a decrease was recorded in shea nuts, corrugated iron, imported cotton goods, gin and other spirits. The revenue derived from the traffic in live stock was practically stationary.

The decrease in corrugated iron and cotton goods was principally due to the difficulty of obtaining supplies of these materials from Europe. The increase in ginned cotton from Zaria and ground nuts from Kano is especially noticeable and indicates satisfactory industrial development at these centers.

As regards passenger traffic, the through train service between Iddo and Kano continued to be very popular and has been largely responsible for the increase in passenger receipts. The opening of the Niger bridge enabled better and quicker service to be given. It is reported that the passenger train service has been satisfactorily run and that increased numbers of native passengers are now traveling by train.

The motor transport service, operated by the railway company, shows an increase in revenue during 1916, although the cost of fuel per mile was considerably higher than during the previous year. Motor transport services have been maintained between the following towns in the interior, connecting the outlying towns with the main line of the railway: (1) Ibadan-Oyo, 33 miles; (2) Oyo-Iseyin, 37 miles; (3) Oshogbo-Ogbomosho, 37 miles; (4) Bukuru-Ropp, 22 miles; and (5) Zaria-Maska, 25 miles. A local service at Abeokuta town has also been instituted.

Expenditures—Construction Work—Nigerian Coal.

The total operating expenditure during 1916 was \$2,330,533, which was an increase over the outlay during 1915, caused chiefly by the greatly advanced cost of locomotive fuel and by the enhanced prices of railway supplies. A decrease resulted in many other items of expenditure. The Jebba Bridge spanning the River Niger, a work of some engineering difficulty, was completed and the bridge opened on January 20, 1916. It has considerably reduced the time of the journey to and from the north, and has, in addition, enabled rolling stock to be transferred readily between sections of the railway north and south of the Niger.

In Russia the problem of securing an adequate supply of machinery and implements for the agricultural interests is becoming more and more complicated. Prior to the war the Russian implement factories turned out nearly 55 per cent of the requirements of the country, valued at some 60,000,000 rubles, and imported some 50,000,000 rubles' worth of the more complicated varieties of agricultural machinery, chiefly from the United States, Canada, Great Britain, and Germany. Home production during the war has steadily fallen off owing to the commandeering of the factories for munition purposes and also to the shortage of labor. Thus the reduction of output of implements, etc., sank from 90 per cent of the 1913 output in 1914, to 50 per cent in 1915, to 20 per cent in 1916, and to 15 per cent in 1917. There has also been a corresponding reduction of imports during the same period, ranging from 70 per cent of the last normal year (1913) in 1914, to nearly 20 per cent of those imports in 1916.

With a view to remedying as far as possible the great shortage of machinery and implements in the country, the authorities during the present year decided to make a Government monopoly of the sale and distribution of the output of the local works. This most difficult and complicated operation has apparently fallen far short of the results that were hoped. At a conference of the Associated Manufacturers of Agricultural Machinery in Russia early in September at Moscow, the necessity of a complete reorganization of the arrangements made by the Government was demonstrated, not only for the needs of the country but for the existence of the works themselves, by reason of their inability to obtain the necessary raw material, including coal, coupled with the enormous demands of labor in the matter of wages.

Government Proposals—Reduction of Imports.

It is now reported in the official gazette for trade and industry that the Ministry of Agriculture, after full consideration of the proposals of the manufacturers, has decided that the Government should allot to the home factories orders representing the requirements of the country at a price that would cover the cost plus a normal profit, and guarantee at the same time the supplies of metal and coal required for those purposes, and further, to use the private trade organizations in effecting a suitable distribution among consumers, agree upon the following plan of production.

The imports of this class from abroad are to be reduced to a minimum owing to the difficulties of the ruble exchange, questions of tonnage, and above all to the fact that the cost of machinery imported from America and Sweden is 100 per cent above prices paid in 1916, to say nothing of freight charges, which are several times higher than those current in that year. It was stated at the conference referred to that the orders placed abroad for the 1918 season were as follows: Mowers, 35,000; horse rakes, 25,000; binders, 10,000; hay forks, 100,200; scythes, 2,500,000; binder twine, 16,250 tons.

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Reserved addresses may be obtained from the Bureau and its district and cooperative offices. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and state opportunity number. The Bureau does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases. Symbols: * Reported by American consular officers; † Reported by commercial attachés and commercial agents; ‡ Direct inquiries received by the Bureau.

In considering the following "opportunities" special regard should be had to the laws and regulations governing export licenses and trading with the enemy.

Agricultural machinery.....	26182	Lumber.....	26185
Automobiles and accessories.....	26182	Machinery.....	26178, 26181
Boots and rubbers.....	26180	Metals.....	26178
Brass tubes.....	26183	Novelties.....	26178
Chemicals.....	26178	Rubber composition.....	26179
Foodstuffs.....	26178	Sanitary articles.....	26183
Hardware.....	26178	Shoemakers' supplies.....	26184
Household articles.....	26183	Stoves and ovens.....	26183
Lamps.....	26183	Textiles.....	26178
Leather.....	26178, 26184		

26178.*—A man in Switzerland desires to secure an agency for the sale of foodstuffs, machinery, metals, chemicals, leather, textiles, hardware, novelties, etc., etc. Quotations may be made f. o. b. American ports. Correspondence may be in English. References.

26179.*—A company in England wishes to purchase roller composition for printers' use. Quotations should be made f. o. b. New York. Payment will be made by cash against shipping documents, or three days' draft on London. Reference.

26180.*—A firm in Switzerland is in the market for rubbers of different kinds for women, men, and children: snow boots with one, two, and three buckles; and rubber boots of all kinds. Quotations should be made f. o. b. New York or Boston. Payment will be made in Swiss currency upon presentation of bill of lading. Goods should be carefully packed so that they will be protected against damage by water. Correspondence may be in English.

26181.*—A man in Ecuador desires to buy machinery necessary for the complete installation of a small nail and screw factory. Quotations may be made f. o. b. New York. He is able to pay at sight up to \$10,000 United States gold, but above that amount requests best possible terms. All boxes should be marked with gross and net weights and all contents declared. Correspondence should be in Spanish. Reference.

26182.*—An agency is desired by a man in Switzerland for the sale of automobiles, agricultural machinery, tractors, and accessories for such machinery. Correspondence may be in English. Reference.

26183.*—A merchant in Italy wishes to purchase household articles in silvered brass and other silvered metals, such as knives, forks, spoons, plates, and fancy articles; kitchen and cooking articles in pure nickel and thick aluminum, such as butter-making machines, saucepans, gridirons, corkscrews, etc.; brass articles for household purposes, such as brackets, brass accessories for curtain fixtures, towel racks, clothes racks, etc.; brass tubes in square and circular forms for making beds; stoves and ovens using petroleum, and stoves and lamps burning alcohol; also sanitary fittings, such as bathtubs, washstands, etc. Payment will be made by opening credit at a local bank when giving order, available against shipping documents. Correspondence should be in French or Italian. References.

26184.*—The owner of an important shoe factory in France wishes to be placed in communication with American manufacturers and exporters capable of furnishing him with leather and other material necessary for making shoes. Correspondence should be in French, if possible. References.

26185.*—An agency or representation is desired by a man in Switzerland for the sale of pitch-pine boards for flooring purposes and yellow pine and Oregon pine for making windows, etc. Quotations should be made f. o. b. New York. Correspondence may be in English. Reference.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE IN ALL ITS SERVICES:

The year must not close without my giving to you all my thanks for loyal and effective service and without my expressing appreciation of what you are doing for your country.

Some of you to whom this message will come are serving in the Army or Navy, some of you holding places of responsibility in those services. I take no small pride in the fact that vessels from four of our services, with many officers and men, are serving their country at sea.

One need not be soldier or sailor, however, to serve his country well in time of war. You have all helped by subscribing to Liberty bonds and by aiding in a hundred helpful ways the Red Cross and the other fine organizations doing a noble work. Some of you have given sons to serve under the flag. Most of you have given of yourselves, which is the greatest and best of gifts.

We must think of ourselves in our work at desk, in field, or in laboratory as serving our country. It will not do to think that the soldier and the sailor are alone in unselfish service. They would be poorly off, indeed, were they not supported by the steady, unflinching work of their friends and fellow servants in this and the other departments of the Government.

In wishing you a happy new year, I do it, let me confess, with a certain tone of sternness in my thought because of the great task to which we have set our hands and which with your aid must be worked out in coming months. It is not likely to be either easy or short. It will call for further steps on the road of sacrifice.

Can a democracy, knit together only by the willing consent of its citizens, stand the pressure and weariness of war like an autocracy held to a single purpose by intelligent force? You and I must do our part to answer that question affirmatively.

If America stands together, she is the greatest national force in the world. If she fails to stand together, every ideal which we hold trembles in the balance. There can be but one answer. It lies in our national motto, "E Pluribus Unum."

WILLIAM C. REDFIELD,
Secretary.

An unusual demand in the interior of Ecuador for canned salmon and sardines, especially sardines in oil, is reported by Commercial Attaché William F. Montavon. He states that a market for American jams and preserves also could be developed in that territory. Commercial travelers are advised that a good line of cheap candy might be carried with these goods.

The Agricultural News
ment of agriculture for th
had several recent articles
ment of raw lime juice.
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During 1915-16 the c
Indies brought to the not
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Indies, an interesting arti
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Agriculture for 1914. It
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Saving in Freight and Packin

It was suggested that
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The general conclusio
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juice was frozen once or t

Experiment in Island of Nevi

Information also was r
culture to the effect that
ment was made some ye
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direct communication wi
sorbs the vapor as soon a
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as it approaches the free
which greatly accelerate
trated juice, not having
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After a lapse of more th
found to retain its chara

During the year 1916, with the disappearance of gold from circulation, the purchasing power of the lev, the Bulgarian unit of value, naturally depreciated. Compared with the Swiss franc, the depreciation of the paper lev for a time amounted to 60 per cent, but the average for the year was 37.50 per cent. The French napoleon steadily advanced in value until, at one time, it became the equivalent of 55 leva, an advance of 250 per cent. This rise in the value of the French 20-franc piece is explained by the National Bank of Bulgaria as "due rather to speculation in the prohibited exportation of gold in neighboring countries and the depreciation of the Bulgarian bank note." In this exorbitant price of the gold napoleon there is also comprised the risk of confiscation.

Most fortunately, the country had excellent crops, which, following the good harvests of the previous year, left Bulgaria at the close of 1916 in a favorable condition. The country's main source of individual and national wealth is agriculture, in which considerably over three-fifths of the entire population are engaged. In every section the crops of wheat, maize, rye, oats, and barley were bountiful, while tobacco, cotton, hemp, flax, sesame, and poppy all did remarkably well. Fruits and vegetables were produced in abundance.

Favorable Financial Conditions.

Judging from the business transacted by the banks, especially by the National Bank of Bulgaria and the Agricultural Bank, both Government institutions, the increase of deposits in the postal savings banks, the large dividends declared by various corporations, the year 1916 was really a remarkable one, considering that the country was engaged in a war that strained all its resources. The National Bank of Bulgaria, the Bulgarian national treasury, reported net profits of \$3,665,612 against \$1,013,751 in 1915, and deposits amounting to \$175,938,932.

The Agricultural Bank, established by the national Government with the view of encouraging and aiding farmers and planters, reported a net profit for the year 1916 of \$644,859, or 9 per cent on its capital. The published report of that institution makes a favorable showing for Bulgaria. The farmers, who principally patronize the bank and its numerous branches throughout the country, not only borrowed far less than in any previous year, but canceled old loans on its books to the amount of \$1,450,000, besides making deposits aggregating \$714,000. These combined figures by no means represent the profits of the agriculturists, for the bank reports that, besides canceling many of its loans, they canceled on a large scale loans from private parties and the small banks in the country districts.

The farmers were the most prosperous class, as they are by far the largest class, in Bulgaria. They were not only blessed with abundant harvests but they obtained for their products the highest prices ever known. The Bulgarians are an economical people, the farmers especially.

The average dividends of the banks, excluding the national and agricultural banks, which are Government institutions, were 9 per cent. The deposits in the postal savings banks at the close of the

banks, of which there were 294
\$16,614,286, representing large
working people.

It is impossible to obtain a
base a review of the commerce
No statistics have been prepared

Exports to United States.

The records of the consulate
were certified for shipment to the
information received it appears
by these invoices reached the
Rotterdam.

Articles.

Attar of roses.....	
Carpets.....	
Embroidery.....	
Leaf tobacco.....	
Rose water.....	
Total.....	

PINE IN THE D

[Consul Arthur Mel

There is a pine forest estimated
the central part of the Dominican
tends from about 8 miles to the
to a short distance east and south
forest is from 5 to 20 miles from
pines to the west of San Jose de
der, and also to the east of J.
about 25 miles from Santiago
by railroad with its port, Puerto
from La Vega, which is also joined
There is not, however, a railroad
to be built in order to get out the

The pine in the Dominican
as the long-leaf yellow pine of

The pine in this island is very
rich in turpentine. The trees
thickness well up to the first
or underbrush in the pine forest
very thick, there are some 42
varieties of other kinds of trees
a few walnut trees in the vicinity

There are nine sawmills in
for the local markets. One of
and the others by Dominican
can machinery. The output of
local requirements, as about 1
ported into the Dominican Republic

The Journal Officiel of November 4 published the following appeal to French firms engaged in the manufacture of farm tractors:

The Minister of Agriculture, desiring to know exactly the possibilities for the construction of tractors by French firms, invites the latter to furnish him before November 20 with all information that may serve as a basis for possible future purchasers.

This information should include especially the prices which will be asked for series of 100, 500, and 1,000; the orders now placed with steel works, foundries, blast furnaces, and workshops susceptible of building such tractors; the details concerning delivery; drawings; the characteristics of the machines; approximate details concerning the various materials entering into the construction of the tractors; the guarantees furnished with regard to the yield of the machines, with particular reference to the power of the motor, including the power available at the axle of the motor wheels, and that available at the traction bar in average soil, as well as all other useful supplementary data.

This information should be sent to the Service de la Culture des Terres, 63 bis, rue de Varenne, Paris.

There is general agreement regarding the necessity for developing in France the construction of agricultural machinery. In the session of November 9 of the Chamber of Deputies M. Fernand David, then Minister of Agriculture, stated that he would soon have at his disposal 800 tractors, already imported or en route, and that 215 were promised by French manufacturers. It is recognized that these quantities are insufficient and that therefore the market continues large for both French and foreign manufactures.

The Cultivation of Abandoned Soil.

The technical section of the French Governmental Bureau, intrusted with encouraging the cultivation of abandoned soil, has undertaken the maintenance and repair, as well as furnishing exchange parts and repair parts, of 372 tractors, representing 11 different makes; 393 plows of 9 different makes; and 158 reapers of 4 different makes. It is reported that there has been great difficulty in obtaining exchange parts, particularly for American machines.

According to the Moniteur des Travaux Publics of November 23 the sowing season for the approaching spring and autumn will require from three to four thousand new tractors.

RECORD POTATO CROP IN SCOTLAND.

[Consul Rufus Fleming, Edinburgh, Dec. 7.]

The preliminary statement showing the estimated total produce and yield per acre of the potato and root crops in Scotland in the year 1917, with comparisons for 1916, has just been issued by the Board of Agriculture.

The potato crop is estimated at 1,110,000 long tons, which is considerably more than double that of last year and has been exceeded only once since the returns of produce were first collected, in 1885—viz, in 1889, when the yield was 2,500 tons more. The area under the crop (147,717 acres) shows an increase of 17,600 acres, while the yield per acre (7.5 tons) is 3.4 tons over that of last year and 1.9 tons over the average for the preceding 10 years. The yield per

1900, when the yield was 1
Turnips and swedes also
(8,053,000 tons) exceeding
per cent. As in the case
once—in 1908, when the
area under the crop is pr
yield per acre (19.4 long
the decennial average by 3
the next best year being 1

Mangolds, with a total
9,000 tons; the area (2,418
yield per acre (21.8 long t
tons over the decennial av

The Board of Agricult
follow:

Crops.

Potatoes.....	
Turnips and swedes.....	
Mangels.....	

TRADE OF PARAGUAY

[Consul He

According to the Quar
Estadistica, which has ju
and exports of Paraguay,
\$0.9648], for the quarters

Countries.

United States.....	
Argentina.....	
Brazil.....	
France.....	
Germany.....	
Great Britain.....	
Holland.....	
Italy.....	
Spain.....	
Uruguay.....	
Other.....	
Total.....	

Drugs amounting to 6
hardware and machinery
constitute the principal
September quarter.

DECEMBER.

Articles.	United States Canal.		Canadian Canal.		Total.	
	1916	1917	1916	1917	1916	1917
EASTBOUND.						
Copper..... short tons.	3,247	2,585			3,247	2,585
Grain..... bushels.	5,252,167	5,646,536	4,507,860	1,362,550	9,760,057	7,009,086
Flour..... barrels.	318,670	763,860	112,280	116,600	430,950	880,460
Iron ore..... short tons.	1,068,887	1,141,291	170,520	45,606	1,239,407	1,186,897
Pig iron..... do.						
Lumber..... M feet.	235	2,271	1,557		1,792	2,271
Wheat..... bushels.	17,844,856	13,985,084	4,517,450	4,439,102	22,362,306	18,424,186
General merchandise, short tons.	15,891	3,675	3,331	10,213	19,222	13,888
Passengers..... number.	2	3	108	19	110	22
WESTBOUND.						
Coal:						
Hard..... short tons.	133,318	51,741			133,318	51,741
Soft..... do.	352,646	495,685	51,400		403,945	495,685
Flour..... barrels.						
Grain..... bushels.						
Manufactured iron, short tons.	3,976		2,908	400	6,884	400
Iron ore..... short tons.						
Salt..... barrels.	13,013		12,600		25,613	
General merchandise, short tons.	10,111	9,767	18,323	10,163	28,434	19,930
Passengers..... number.	2		31	8	33	8
TOTAL.						
Freight:						
Eastbound short tons.	1,776,063	1,767,528	409,983	224,854	2,186,046	1,992,382
Westbound..... do.	501,898	557,193	74,431	10,563	576,329	567,756
Total.....	2,277,961	2,324,721	484,414	235,417	2,762,375	2,560,138
Vessel passages, number.	535	460	27	170	762	580
Registered tonnage..... net.	1,472,082	1,365,260	330,267	217,500	1,802,349	1,582,760

NINE MONTHS ENDING DECEMBER.

EASTBOUND.						
Copper..... short tons.	122,161	110,188	3,882	8,674	126,043	118,813
Grain..... bushels.	47,063,808	49,045,914	46,066,108	18,369,851	93,180,316	67,415,805
Flour..... barrels.	6,887,199	5,105,511	3,339,331	3,343,438	10,246,60	8,449,949
Iron ore..... short tons.	51,935,809	50,011,556	11,487,371	11,107,205	63,443,180	61,308,681
Pig iron..... do.	35,032	10,614			35,032	10,614
Lumber..... M feet.	377,663	34,051	13,649	8,558	341,352	370,000
Wheat..... bushels.	139,537,877	120,751,356	86,825,438	65,148,093	226,063,315	185,899,449
General merchandise, short tons.	281,470	196,303	57,443	68,635	338,913	264,938
Passengers..... number.	12,064	6,339	16,055	12,541	28,119	15,880
WESTBOUND.						
Coal:						
Hard..... short tons.	2,123,509	2,389,449	87,710	172,750	2,210,719	2,562,199
Soft..... do.	12,970,073	14,648,567	942,817	1,068,067	13,912,900	15,716,664
Flour..... barrels.	421	80	12,960	10	13,381	99
Grain..... bushels.	9,245	8,185			9,245	8,185
Manufactured iron, short tons.	144,091	78,313	23,071	13,145	167,162	91,458
Iron ore..... short tons.	14,479	46,866	14,448	18,563	28,927	65,430
Salt..... barrels.	663,063	452,727	66,787	117,219	729,840	569,946
General merchandise, short tons.	959,354	926,087	350,753	300,790	1,310,107	1,226,876
Passengers..... number.	11,243	5,651	15,560	13,808	26,803	19,459
TOTAL.						
Freight:						
Eastbound short tons.	58,775,064	56,204,519	15,373,354	13,841,966	74,148,418	70,046,485
Westbound..... do.	16,310,155	18,157,331	1,429,646	1,610,082	17,739,801	19,767,413
Total.....	75,085,219	74,361,850	16,803,000	15,452,048	91,888,219	89,813,898
Vessel passages, number.	18,716	17,536	6,691	5,349	25,407	22,885
Registered tonnage..... net.	57,038,207	53,413,807	12,786,256	11,893,426	69,824,463	65,307,233

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The Indian Munitions Board recently has been devoting attention to India's loss of valuable leather through the faulty flaying of hides and the branding of cattle. The best hides for leather making come from the various cities and cantonments where cattle are slaughtered for food, but only a small proportion of these fine hides can be turned to good account, because the butcher or meat contractor exercises no supervision over the removal of the hides, with the result that in most cases they are badly gashed and cut on the flesh side.

The destruction of so much otherwise excellent raw material represents a great loss financially, and is particularly regrettable in view of the need of leather for war purposes. The value of this trade may be judged from the fact that during the last financial year exports of hides in the raw state amounted to \$24,332,000 and those of tanned hides to \$14,599,000, making a total of \$38,931,000.

Insufficient Time for Slaughtering.

It is learned that the principal reasons for the faulty flaying of hides in India are (a) that insufficient time for slaughtering is allowed by municipal and other controlling authorities; (b) that the butchers are ignorant of the fact that a well-flayed hide at present is worth more by 2 annas a pound raw or 4 annas a pound tanned than a badly flayed one; and (c) that no incentive had been offered to the actual skinner to produce well-flayed hides.

That a great improvement can be effected by action on proper lines has been proved in the Bandra slaughterhouse (Bombay municipality), where about 200 cattle (cows and oxen) are slaughtered daily. Eight months ago 65 per cent of these had to be rejected from the army selection because of butcher cuts. Representations were made to the market superintendent, who granted the workmen an extension of time for slaughtering, and the assistant controller of hides, who buys the hides for the Government tannery, was authorized to pay the skinners a bonus of 2 annas for every well-flayed hide. The result is that less than 5 per cent now has to be rejected for faulty flaying.

Damage Done by Branding of Cattle.

A large proportion of the leather produced in India is unsuitable for army purposes, and to a great extent for civil purposes, because of the brands on the hides. These in many cases take the form of double semicircular lines covering the butt part of the hide and often extending to the shoulder. The practice of branding cattle is much more general in some parts of India than in others, and the reasons vary, but it results in a reduction of 1 to 3 rupees in the value of the hide. In some districts 40 to 50 per cent of the hides are spoiled by branding. A small brand in the neck or shoulder would probably serve the purpose, and at the same time would not depreciate the value to any great extent.

The munitions board is bringing these matters to the notice of local authorities, in the hope that the influence of the district and local officials may effect an improvement in the practice.

Two processes are employed : beans. One, known as the "extra" which, by the use of benzine, extracts the beans. When it is employed and this is said to be preferred to breaking before it is used on fire for less than that produced by the cult to remove all traces of benzine oil is generally understood to mean

One Mill Uses Extraction Process.

Only one mill at Dairen uses as an experiment by the South recently sold to the firm of Suzuki machinery was brought out in sections by experts, and operated by them to visit this plant, as it is closed to inspect it must obtain permission. The method of extracting oil, however,

Fifty-odd mills, large and small at Dairen. Usually they are of the vertical press type. Vertical presses of the column are used, some mills have two floors, one directly above the other. The power applied at the same time to work these presses by hydraulic or old hand-power screw press.

Preliminary Treatment of Beans.

When the beans are received at the mill or very near it. After being sorted and dirt, etc., they are kept for several days. They are turned over with shovels a few times. No magnetic cleaning is used. In a chemical mill, which additional heat is applied, the temperature is aimed at, the object being so that the oil will be more easily extracted. For several days they are kept in a bin and run down through a series of smooth, iron rollers, which roll the beans into disks, the size and shape of a dollar. They then pass through a trough in which a screw conveyor carries them to the pressing floors, where they are pressed.

The press gangs have ready bins which hold a sufficient quantity of beans. The required quantity is scooped up and carried to the steam box. The beans are mixed with the beans a couple of inches and allowed to flow up through the press. The steam is not under pressure.

the same time.

Form Prepared by Coolies.

Meanwhile several more coolies, who work naked or with a loin cloth and sweatband only, have prepared the form. This consists of an iron plate with two handles, upon which two iron rings, which will form the cake, are placed, and two bundles of a long grass imported for the purpose from China are spread fanwise. Then a thin, wooden, circular frame, with ends not fastened together, is placed on the grass and forced down upon the plate inside the rings, the grass ends standing upright.

The steamed beans are brought from the steam box in the gunny cloth, and with one swing thrown into the form. A coolie, shod with the native footgear resembling a moccasin but heavier, jumps in, grasps a handhold overhead, and stamps the beans into a compact mass inside the form. He then stoops and raises the wooden holder slightly, pulls up the iron rings to their proper position, steps out, takes out the wooden frame, folds over the grass ends to form the top of the form and lays two flat iron bars thereon to hold the grass ends in place. Then two men take plate and all to a small auxiliary press where gentle pressure, sufficient to set the mass, is applied for a second or two; the plate with the cake on it is taken to the press; the cake shoved off the plate into one of the columns forming; and the plate brought back for another trip.

Pressure by Hydraulic Power.

As soon as the press is full, top and bottom, a wooden post is inserted at the outer side to keep the cakes in position, and the signal is given to the engineer, who turns on the hydraulic power. The bottom of the press rises slowly and the oil immediately begins to flow. The first pressure is not great; and as the first flow subsides, more power is applied, but time must be given for the oil to run before much pressure is used. After several hours pressure, the oil having ceased to flow even after the maximum of 130 tons per 100 cakes has been applied for a number of hours, the press is opened, and the cakes are taken out and stripped of the iron rings with instruments similar to peavies. The grass also is removed. Coolies take the cakes between their knees, and rolling them forward in the operation, cut off the rims (the part squeezed out between the iron rings) with drawknives. This finishes the cake, which is then ready for storage and shipment.

The bottom of each cake has an indentation caused by the butts of the two grass bundles, and on top there is imprinted the chop of the mill, which is cut out in relief on a block and put inside the cake just before the grass tops are turned down as before described.

Treatment of Oil After Leaving Presses.

The oil flows by gravity from the presses into receivers, from which it is pumped into storage tanks. It is first strained, and in the tanks it settles, and is drawn off so that the sediment is not taken with it. Tanks are cleaned frequently and have pipes to draw off sediment. No fuller's earth or clarifying clays are employed, nor is any other conditioning method used.

works, Osaka, Japan; and the Churia Railway at Shakako, as used in America, though the Some American mills use hairc and this could be used instead.

There is no equipment at the present, but if the price of case be obtained in sufficient quantities piping into tank steamers will

Interested firms are referred made by the Dairen consulate of May 29 (No. 125), August all of 1917.

CONSOLIDATION

[Commercial Attaché Erwin W. T

In common with other German the large ones, are tending to year the Deutsche Bank absorb the Norddeutsche Gesellschaft to 275 million marks; the D Rheinisch-Westfälische Discon from 200 to 260 million marks, has absorbed the Magdeburge vincial banks, increasing its ca

German newspapers uniform banks. They appear to think ably simplified by consolidation with the Government or Government larger actual profits the banks the same as before the war, the the Disconto-Gesellschaft 10 per cent.

SOAP FAC

[Consul Julius D. Dr

The experiment of manufacture successful, and the local factories boxes of 36 pounds each a month 800 boxes of it a month, and cities of Colon and Panama. it is probable that the output long. At present only laundry

OFFICES OF THE BUREAU OF I

DISTRICT OFFICES.

NEW YORK: 784 Customhouse.
BOSTON: 1801 Customhouse.
CHICAGO: 504 Federal Building.
ST. LOUIS: 403 Third National Bank Build
NEW ORLEANS: 1020 Hibernia Bank Build
SAN FRANCISCO: 367 Customhouse.
SEATTLE: 848 Henry Building.

It is believed that prior to the war the production of the world's supply of chemical glass was almost exclusively in the hands of German and Austrian manufacturers who did everything possible to foster the industry, not only for its intrinsic worth as a source of national wealth, but because they recognized it as a pivot or "key" industry. Without the research work, the testing of processes and results, and the analysis carried out in laboratories by means of chemical and scientific glassware, many vital industries could not exist.

Knowledge Gained by Original Research.

Before the war, Messrs. John Moncrieff (Ltd.), of Perth, were engaged in glass manufacture and had devoted much time and study to the production of heat-resistance glasses. Their knowledge and experience had been gained by many years of original research carried out in their own laboratory when investigating the possibility of producing a glass which would resist very high steam pressure and great variations of temperature. Their success is proven by an established reputation as manufacturers of gauge glasses used in steam boilers for indicating the water level of the boiler.

When the scarcity of chemical glass was realized, this firm decided to place its knowledge at the service of the country by undertaking the manufacture of chemical glassware, notwithstanding that it had neither furnace nor skilled labor available. Realizing how imperative it was to obtain production with the least possible delay, the firm hired a furnace and building in Edinburgh while a new installation in its own works was under way. By this means they actually commenced to manufacture in January, 1915.

Labor Obtained from Belgium.

An important task was the acquisition of skilled labor, especially as no suitable labor existed in this country. Undaunted, however, they managed to obtain six men from Belgium, even when that country was under German occupation, and at a time when no Belgian refugee glassworkers had reached this country. These men, although unacquainted with chemical glass, had experience in thin-molded glassware. They formed a nucleus, and facilitated the training of local workmen and boys, so that by the time the work was transferred to Perth, early in 1916, the establishment of the industry was an accomplished fact.

For the production of chemical glassware the firm has made substantial extensions to its works. A large one was completed in 1916, and the erection of another is now almost finished, while plans are practically completed for a third addition which is to be a duplicate of the original extension.

It is claimed that the product of Messrs. Moncrieff has been proved by exhaustive comparative tests, carried out by British scientists, to be superior to the best German. Besides the commonly known chemical glassware articles, such as beakers, flasks, hydrometers, and graduated ware, Messrs. Moncrieff equipped practically the whole of the British Government and controlled explosive factories with the glass apparatus for the condensation of nitric acid. This likewise in previous times was exclusively German, and the method and manner

[illegible]

Scientist 4th list
In close

Reserved addresses may be obtained from the Bureau and its district and cooperative offices. Request for each opportunity should be on a separate sheet and state opportunity number. The Bureau does not furnish credit ratings or assume responsibility as to the standing of foreign inquirers; the usual precautions should be taken in all cases. Symbols: * Reported by American consular officers; † Reported by commercial attachés and commercial agents; ‡ Direct inquiries received by the Bureau.

In considering the following "opportunities" special regard should be had to the laws and regulations governing export licenses and trading with the enemy.

Aquariums and supplies.....	26191	Kerchiefs.....	26186
Artificial leather.....	26192	Oilcloth and linoleum.....	26192
Beds.....	26194	Paper and cardboard.....	26189, 26194
Carpet sweepers.....	26192	Sewing machines.....	26194
Carpets and rugs.....	26192	Shoe findings.....	26194
Clothing.....	26194	Sweaters.....	26188
Construction material.....	26194	Textiles.....	26192, 26194
Containers.....	26194	Thread.....	26194
Drugs.....	26194	Tools.....	26190
Edgings.....	26186	Toys and novelties.....	26193
Electrical goods.....	26194	Varnishes.....	26194
Emery wheels.....	26190	Wood oil.....	26187
Filing cases.....	26194		

26186.†—A man in Peru desires to be placed in communication with American manufacturers and exporters of kerchiefs in assorted colors and designs, edgings, etc., similar to samples which may be examined at the Bureau or its district offices. (Refer to file No. 2756.)

26187.*—A company in Switzerland desires to secure an agency for the sale of wood oil in large quantities, used for varnishing purposes and also as an ingredient for varnishing oils. Correspondence may be in English. References.

26188.*—A firm in England wishes to purchase 6,000 mixed cotton and wool sweaters. Quotations should be made f. o. b. steamer New York. Payment will be made by cash in New York against surrender of invoice and ocean bills of lading to bankers. The bales should be absolutely water-proof. Reference.

26189.*—A man in Egypt is in the market for printing and wrapping paper, newspaper in rolls and plano, and shoemakers' cardboard in bales of 25 kilos. Quotations should be made f. o. b. New York. Payment will be made by cash upon receipt of goods. Correspondence may be in English. References.

26190.*—A firm in Italy desires to purchase and secure an agency for the sale of emery wheels and standards for same, assorted tools, and saws. Quotations may be made f. o. b. American port. Payment will be made by cash through a New York house against shipping documents. Correspondence should be in French or Italian. References.

26191.†—A firm in Cuba wishes to buy small fancy aquariums and fish globes, as well as aquaria supplies. Catalogues and price lists should be submitted. All business will be transacted through a firm in the United States.

26192.*—A company in Switzerland wishes to purchase and secure an agency for the sale of artificial leather, oilcloth, linoleum, carpets, rugs, rubber bed sheetings and surgical goods, skins for rugs, travelling rugs, woolen and cotton dress goods and suitings for men and women, linen and sailcloths, carpet-sweepers, linen table covers, velvet, etc. Cash will be paid. All goods should be packed in solid wooden boxes lined with oil paper. Correspondence may be in English. References.

26193.†—A commission house in Cuba desires to represent American manufacturers and exporters of toys and novelties. References.

26194.†—An import and commission merchant from Colombia, who will be in the United States for a period of three months, desires to represent in South America, American manufacturers and exporters of office filing cases, small iron beds for institutions, varnishes, drugs, asphalt containers, coffee and flour containers, cotton thread, blouses for women, cotton cloth, work-ingmen's suits, advertising cardboards in colors, toys, hand sewing machines, construction material, shoe findings, electrical novelties, electrical bulbs, corrugated paper, all kinds of paper, and dresses for children. References.

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